



Channon acts to investigate insider deals

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said yesterday that he is bringing into immediate effect powers to investigate insider dealing.

Mr Cassell was not available for comment at his Los Angeles home yesterday. Scrimgeour Vickers would not comment, after a request by the Stock Exchange to remain silent while investigations continued.

Mr Collier was forced to resign from Morgan Grenfell Securities after dealings in AE shares shortly before a bid for the company by Hollis, one of Morgan Grenfell's clients.

Mr Channon announced in Parliament that the new Financial Services Act enabling the DTI to take evidence under oath during investigations into insider trading were being

brought into effect from last night.

In reply to a question from Mr Brian Gould, Labour's deputy Treasury spokesman, Mr Channon said: "Investigations are under way. I can assure you that I take as serious a view as you do of what Mr Collier is alleged to have done."

The Stock Exchange yesterday issued a denial of reports that Mr Collier had told its committee investigating the affair that others, including several investment fund managers, were involved in insider dealing.

Insider dealing - using privileged information to profit from share dealing - became a criminal offence in 1980.

Drug money alert to brokers

By Lawrence Lever

The Stock Exchange has written to stockbrokers throughout the country to warn them that new drug laws could lead to them being imprisoned if they fail to report suspected laundering of drug money by their clients.

It points out that the Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986 overrides the stockbroker's duty to keep his client's affairs confidential.

"Member firms are advised to report to the police any suspicion that a client has benefited from drug trafficking as soon as that suspicion arises," the letter says.

A Stock Exchange spokesman said yesterday the letter was part of the Exchange's routine process of informing its members of any change in the law which might affect them.

"We regularly send out letters to the administration

partners of firms, pointing out changes in tax, fraud and VAT laws," the spokesman said.

The Home Office, which instigated the new laws, said it had no evidence of drug money being laundered through stockbroking firms.

"We haven't been given any evidence specifically on stockbrokers," a Home Office spokesman said.

"Obviously we can't disclose the Stock Exchange as a place where drug money has been channelled. Some of the money may well go into stocks and shares, but it goes into other things as well such as property."

Monday

Passing the test



Action to stem the tide: how Britain's doctors will test for Aids

Portfolio

£24,000 to be won

There is £24,000 to be won today in The Times Portfolio Gold competition - the weekly prize of £8,000 plus a daily prize of £16,000, four times the usual amount as there has been no winner for the past three days.

Portfolio lists, pages 24 and 25.

TIMES BUSINESS

Branson price

The striking price for shares offered in Mr Richard Branson's Virgin records and entertainment group is 140p, valuing the group at £242 million. Mr Branson's personal holding is worth £128 million. Page 25

Savings record

Building societies took in record receipts last month, but the figures were significantly affected by glamorous share flotations, including the TSB issue. Page 25

TIMES SPORT

Bugner wins

Joe Bugner, former European and Commonwealth heavyweight boxing champion, gained a unanimous points decision over David Bey of the US in his second comeback fight. Page 42

TIMES MONEY

Gas package

British Gas has put together a package of benefits to encourage shareholders to retain their investment rather than selling for a quick profit. Family Money, pages 30-38

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Overseas, Arts, British, etc. and 2 columns: Law Report, Letters, etc.

Rape mothers to get £5,000

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Women who are raped and give birth to a child are granted a statutory right to £5,000 for the child plus compensation for the crime itself under the Criminal Justice Bill published yesterday.

At the same time the Bill grants women anonymity from the moment they first complain.

At present rape victims are granted anonymity only from the moment of charge, but yesterday Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, said: "We did not feel that we could not act, having regard to the public concern about the Ealing vicarage rape case."

The Bill also abolishes the right of defendants in rape cases to anonymity, which Mr David Meller, the Home Office minister of state, said yesterday should "never have been legislated in the first place."

The proposals are among a package of measures to give a better deal to all victims of violent crime. They form a main plank of the 128-clause bill which is a legislative priority, aimed at the statute book before a general election.

But it will face opposition on some key provisions, first, that to tackle sentences which appear too lenient, by enabling the Attorney General to refer those raising a question of public importance to the Lord Chief Justice for a general statement of principle.

Second, over the proposal to abolish peremptory challenge of jurors, which was singled out yesterday by lawyers from both the Law Society and the Criminal Bar Association as causing concern and likely to arouse protest.

The Government has already faced defeat in the Lords on a similar sentencing proposal during the Prosecution of Offences Bill.

But this time the proposal goes first through the Commons. "I hope that done that way round the Lords will come to the conclusion the idea is not a bad one," Mr Hurd said.

The Government was determined however not just to drop the issue of lenient sentences and leave the system "at the mercy of the occasional earthquake," Mr Hurd said.

The Bill's proposals will strengthen the powers of the courts and sentencers in tackling large-scale crime; overhaul court procedures; extradition law and the jury system.

Yesterday Ms Vivien Stern, director of the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders, said the Bill was irrelevant to current British sentencing policy problems.

She said: "Our prisons are at bursting point because we look up more people than any other major European country. Yet the Bill makes no attempt to reduce our excessive use of prisons, and some of its provisions will probably increase it." Full details 4



The Princess of Wales hanging on to her hat at a breezy Doha airport yesterday, with Mr Julian Walker, the British Ambassador, ready to assist. (Letter from Qatar, page 24)

Britain chides Reagan over hostage deals

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The British Government made clear its considerable displeasure at the secret American arms dealings with Iran yesterday through two thinly-disguised rebukes by ministers in the Commons.

As Mrs Thatcher flew off to Washington for weekend talks with President Reagan, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, declared: "This Government will not do deals with terrorists for the release of hostages. This is not an easy policy to follow. Sometimes it is agonizing. But it is right."

Using still more forceful language, Mr Timothy Renton, Foreign Office Minister of State, later declared that it "smacked of expediency" and could not be in the national interest "to allow terrorists to believe that they could swap British hostages for arms, money or convicted criminals in British jails."

He continued: "Doing deals with terrorists only gives a further turn to the ratchet, increasing the spiral of terrorism by encouraging the belief that taking hostages was worthwhile."

MPs were quick to note that both ministers' statements implicitly contradicted Mr Reagan's denial that the arms deal was a quid pro quo for the release of American hostages.

The two statements made Britain's position absolutely clear in advance of the Camp David talks, at which Mrs

Thatcher will be expecting a full explanation of the US Administration's behaviour.

Neither Sir Geoffrey nor Mr Renton referred explicitly to Mr Reagan's admission of arms dealing, but their disquiet was evident from their emphasis on the correctness of the British approach to countering terrorism.

Sir Geoffrey, referring to three of Britain's own hostages in the Lebanon, said that the Government was doing all it

Parliament Reagan blunder Leading article

could to secure their release, but was not prepared to make "substantive" concessions.

"At a meeting of the 12 interior ministers on September 25 our Community partners reaffirmed their determination not to make concessions to terrorists. That is a commitment to which we attach much importance. In our view concessions lead to more, not less, hostage-taking," he said.

Mr Denis Healey, the shadow Foreign Secretary, regretted that Sir Geoffrey "didn't show the courage" to refer to the Americans by name, but backed Sir Geoffrey's unequivocal statement of the British position and described Mr Reagan's attempt to explain his behaviour as "stuporously incredible."

No deals with US says Iran

By Robert Fisk, Middle East Correspondent

The Iranian President yesterday delivered a swift but not uncompromising reply to President Reagan's admission of US contacts with Iran, denying that there had been any negotiations between American and Iranian officials but holding out the possibility that further supplies of military hardware could still secure the release of more American hostages in Lebanon.

The denials and counter-denials by both Washington and Tehran over the "arms-for-hostages" affair are fast acquiring a pace of their own, but American officials are likely to have focused on one key section of the speech made by President Ali Khamenei yesterday which was quoted on Tehran radio and by the Iranian news agency.

"You (the Americans) are the real terrorists who attacked Libya...not those youths (sic) who take a few American hostages to gain

President's diplomacy draws fire

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Widespread scepticism has greeted President Reagan's televised explanation of why he sent American arms to Iran, with many congressional leaders saying the President had tried to put the best face on a serious foreign policy blunder.

Democrats and Republicans alike approved Mr Reagan's attempt to seek better relations with Iran and ending the Iran-Iraq war, but all insisted that sending of arms to Tehran had greatly damaged US credibility at home and with its allies.

They also strongly criticized his failure to consult Congress or keep key leaders informed, and said Mr Reagan's high-risk diplomacy had made it more likely that more Americans would be taken hostage.

In his brisk defence of his actions, which he said he was obliged to make because of a growing tide of distortion, leaks and misinformation, the President insisted he had not

Anti-terror police investigate deaths

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Officers from Scotland Yard's Anti-Terrorist Squad were called yesterday to a gutted East London terrace house in which three Tamil men were killed in a firebomb attack.

At least three of the nine occupants of the house escaped a petrol bomb attack on Monday night because they were in another house. Deputy Assistant Commissioner Wyn Jones, commander of the East London area, said:

"The three dead men, all in their 20s, are believed to have been students. They died when at least three petrol-bomb incendiary devices were thrown through windows. Mr Ponnambalam Sathiyabalan, aged 38, brother of three of the men who escaped, said: "My brothers are all students but I don't know if they have any political involvements." Gang feud theory, page 2

Heads hold the key to schools pay contract

By Mark Dowd, Education Reporter

The National Association of Head Teachers and the Secondary Heads Association held the key last night to whether local authority employers could command a majority of the six teaching unions to sign up for their final offer on pay and conditions.

After more than 100 hours of negotiations in Nottingham and London, union officials were squaring up to some difficult decisions after seeing the written details of the new contract proposals.

It seemed likely that at least two of the unions, the National Union of Teachers and the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, who between them represent more than half the 450,000 teachers of England and Wales, would be eventual signatories, with the non-striking Professional Association of Teachers.

It also appeared equally likely that the second largest union, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, would oppose any final accord.

However, the decision of the two head teachers unions seem to be in the balance. The NAHT and the SHA carry enormous significance.

The factor becomes even more crucial in light of their enhanced managerial role planned by the Government.

Should Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education, wish to reject the deal emerging at Acas headquarters in London last night, he would have his hand strengthened considerably if he could convince the public that a settlement lacked the assent of the very people who take the ultimate responsibility in schools.

Free air time in Aids drive sought

By Jonathan Miller, Media Correspondent

Government-sponsored advertisements warning of the dangers of Aids are to be broadcast by both the BBC and independent television and radio companies, it was announced yesterday.

The IBA and ITV companies are expected to provide air time without charge to the Government. The BBC will broadcast the advertisements as public-service announcements.

Agreement in principle on the advertising campaign was reached yesterday with the BBC after Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, and Mr Tony Newton, minister of health, met Mr Alasdair Milne, director-general, and Mr Marmaduke Hussey, chairman of the BBC.

Lord Thomson of Mounifield, chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, held a similar meeting with Mr Fowler on Thursday. Mr Fowler told the broad-

casters that in the absence of a cure for Aids, the only way to counter the spread of the disease was through a public education campaign.

Lord Thomson cleared the way for the commercials to be broadcast on ITV by announcing in a letter to the Government earlier in the week that the IBA would not interpret its television code to prevent the advertising of contraceptives.

Because of the nature of the campaign, it might be necessary for the commercials to be more explicit than the IBA would permit a commercial advertiser, Lord Thomson wrote.

He said: "The Broadcasting Act does, of course, require the Authority to ensure that nothing is included which offends against good taste or decency or is offensive to public feeling, but this has to be interpreted in the light of public attitudes to particular problems." Battle against Aids, page 3

Printer is jailed for glass attack

New deadline, page 2

A dismissed printer who smashed a beer glass in the face of a journalist on The Times after the newspaper's move to Wapping, east London, received a nine-month jail sentence yesterday. Robin Shirfield, aged 47, of north London, was found guilty of unlawfully wounding Mr Christopher Warman.

Judge Crowther, QC, told Shirfield: "If you resort to the use of a glass in someone's face, you have to expect imprisonment." Case details, page 3

Inflation steady at 3% but sharp rise likely

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The inflation rate stayed at 3 per cent last month, concluding an encouraging week of economic news for the Government.

But the 1.25 per cent rise in mortgage rates will push inflation up towards 3.5 per cent this month. City economists expect a further rise to nearly 4 per cent during the winter, before a fall next spring.

The likely profile of inflation has been used in support of a late spring election. Prices of clothing and draught-beer rose last month. Inflation steady, page 25

Gorbachov tries to rewrite theory of Marxism

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The official Soviet Communist Party paper Pravda published a major theoretical article yesterday claiming that the realities of the nuclear age demanded a radical transformation of Marxism-Leninism, and warning revolutionary groups around the world to weigh the consequences of violence.

The article, spread across 13 columns, was described by senior diplomats as the latest attempt by the Kremlin leadership, under Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, to try to reconcile the theoretical basis of communism with the sophistication of modern weaponry.

It was also seen as indirect criticism of the more extreme acts of terrorism which are causing increasing concern in Moscow and have prompted the Soviet Government to cooperate with a number of Western governments, including Britain and France, to discuss ways of stamping it out.

Pravda went on to point out that the need for caution arose because the existence of nuclear arms might transform local conflicts into regional or even world conflagration. But the author, the Soviet historian Mr E. Pimakov, conveniently left the door open for the continuing support of violence in the cause of national liberation.

"On the other hand," he added, "this era does not deprive us of the necessity to repulse reactionary and counter-revolutionary forces where they try to use force to liquidate the democratic and socialist achievements of the people and to turn back the historical progress."

One Western Kremlinologist explained: "The theoreticians in the Kremlin appear to be arguing that leftist groups can go on fighting but they must be careful that their struggles do not escalate into a nuclear war. Some people might call that having your cake and eating it."

The timing of the article, headlined "Marxism-Leninism and revolutionary activity at the end of the 20th century", was seen as part of Mr Gorbachov's campaign to streamline the communist state's theoretical approach to a number of issues.

Pravda stated that communist countries had scored sufficient successes to raise the question of banning force from the world political arena. It went on to quote Mr

Advertisement for LAUDER FOR MEN FRAGRANCE, featuring a bottle image and text: 'The confidence behind the image. Now Estée Lauder turns her renowned skills as a perfumer to a man's advantage.'

NEWS SUMMARY

TSB applications go to fraud squad

The Trustee Savings Bank has referred more than 20 people suspected of making illegal multiple applications for its shares to the fraud squad, the bank announced yesterday.

Sir John Read, chairman of the TSB, said in a statement that the Director of Public Prosecutions would decide in which cases criminal proceedings should be instituted.

Several hundred suspected forms are still being investigated. The bank is hanging on to the money received with these, saying the applicants have failed to respond to repeated inquiries.

Sky diver Race case for Welsh killed

Top parachutist Alex Woodhouse has been killed in an accident which seriously injured his wife Beryl after the pair collided in mid air.

The couple were free falling when the accident happened at a military base near Akrotiri, Cyprus, which is staging the world parachuting championships.

Mrs Woodhouse, aged 44, was left with serious neck and shoulder injuries.

Fewer Civil Servants

Civil Service numbers fell to 594,365 last year compared with 732,300 in 1979, when the Conservatives came to power, but the rate of reduction slowed markedly.

The number of white collar Civil Servants rose marginally, while the bulk of losses were sustained by blue collar employees.

Jail term reduced

A two-year jail sentence imposed on a woman who fired a shotgun at the man who had sexually abused her since she was 11 was ruled "excessive" by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

No Murrell charge

Police who questioned an alleged murderer for three days about the killing of Miss Hilda Murrell, aged 79, the peace campaigner, in Shrewsbury two years ago have not charged him.

Murdoch sets new payments date

Former employees of News International have been told that the offer of termination payments made to them by Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman of the company, will close on Monday week.

Whitehall steps up MI5 files battle

By Frances Gibb Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Government is poised to contest right up to the High Court of Australia, its highest court, a court order yesterday that it disclose all secret MI5 documents relating to its investigations into the Hollis affair.

That will help government lawyers in arguing that publication of the book would be damaging to Australia's national interests if the case reaches a full hearing.

In the wake of yesterday's order, that is certain to be further delayed.

The order relates to documents on the Government's conclusions that the late Sir Roger Hollis, former director-general of MI5, was not a Soviet spy. In his book Mr Wright claims the opposite.

If the Government fails in its attempt to contest the order, publication of the book in Australia is likely to mean publication in Britain as well.

Labour to neutralize rebels in Knowsley

By Robin Oakley Political Editor

The Labour Party is to move swiftly to safeguard the future of its successful candidate in the Knowsley North by-election, Mr George Howarth.

Mr Mike McGuire, secretary of the left-controlled Knowsley North constituency party, which had Mr Howarth imposed on it by the Labour leader, Mr Neil Kinnock and the party's national executive - when its members had wanted to select left-wing MKP Mr Les Huckfield - said yesterday that disbanding the local party was "the only way George Howarth can survive as the MP".

Mr McGuire said that the dominant faction in the local party did not like the fact that Mr Howarth was the MP, and they had not congratulated him on winning.

So long as the present Militant-dominated officials remain in charge in Knowsley, Mr Howarth is clearly in danger of being deselected for the general election.

Mr Ray Gill, North-west regional organizer of the Labour Party, who had to step in to run Mr Howarth's campaign with the help of no more than a third of the local party, confirmed he would be calling for the disbandment of the constituency party and naming certain individuals.

Action is expected at the next meeting of Labour's national executive later this month.

Mr Howarth's victory at Knowsley, announced in the early hours of yesterday morning, was one of those political events that left all three parties disappointed.

Mr Howarth won comfortably enough, but Labour's majority was clipped from more than 17,000 to just 6,724. And the 8.2 per cent fall in Labour's share of the vote, from 64.5 to 56.3 per cent, was the worst in this Parliament.

The Conservative candidate, Mr Roger Brown, slipped from second to third place, in spite of the recent Conservative resurgence in national opinion polls, the increased spending announced in the autumn statement and the best jobless figures for years announced on the by-election polling day.

He only narrowly avoided the ignominy of becoming the first main party candidate to lose his deposit since the rules were changed. The Conservative share of the vote dropped from 20.1 per cent in 1983 to a mere 6.3 per cent.

The Liberal candidate, Miss Rosemary Cooper, the Merseyside councillor who fought the seat for the Alliance, strictly on local issues and on attacking the Militant Ten-

Fire bombing may be part of feuding by Tamil gangs

By Nicholas Beeton

As racial tension mounted in East London yesterday after the death of three Asians in a fire-bomb attack, police concentrated their investigations on the possibility that the murders were the result of feuding within the Tamil community.

Mr Krishnan Pillai, aged 47, a local resident, claimed that the attack was not racially motivated. He said that three "innocent" people had died in the attack and claimed that he had witnessed an argument between two lodgers who survived the attack and a group of Asians in a public house two weeks ago.

He said that these two were meant to die in the attack because, a week after the argument, a group of people armed with knives and sticks attempted to attack them at their home in Shobery Road.

On Tuesday night a petrol bomb was thrown at the Shobery Road house and the lodgers were asked to leave within 24 hours. They then moved into the house in Burges Road.

Mr James Cullum, aged 68, a Shobery Road resident, said that the "few old white people" left in the area were very frightened. "We live amongst it. And we are going out of our minds."

Mr Joseph Phillip, aged 21, an Indian whose Burges Road home was petrol bombed about eight months ago, said he believed the attack on his home was racially motivated. But he too claimed that the latest attack was the result of the argument in the public house.

Community leaders and a number of residents however, blamed whites for the attacks.

Mr Nish Kanwar, of the Newham Monitoring Project, said that there had been a 60 per cent increase in racial attacks in Newham over the past year.

Mr Kanwar and a hundred residents staged a picket outside East Ham police station at lunchtime yesterday carrying placards saying: "No police cover-up"

Mr Ezaz Hayat, whose fast-food shop in Barking Road was stormed last week by a white gang who call themselves The Croydon Road Gang, also attended the picket.

He said that the gang, usually armed with knives and sticks, had attacked his shop several times, causing thousands of pounds worth of damage.

Two shops, one owned by a Sikh and the other by a Hindu, were among the targets of previous attacks. The private residences attacked, including two in Burges Road and one in Shobery Road, were all occupied by Asians.

Mr Dave Clark, of the Newham-based group Workers Against Racism, supported this view. He denied that the attacks were the result of political friction.

"There are a thousand Tamils here who could be deported at any minute should they get caught committing any crime," he said.

He also claimed that a group of whites were observed peering into the doorway of a house in Skeffington Road late on Thursday night, only hours before the Burges Road attack.



Firemen inspect the house in Burges Road, East Ham, where three Tamils were killed in a fire bomb attack in early yesterday. Six people escaped (Photograph: James Gray)

Northern Ireland Thousands begin agreement protest

By Richard Ford

Security forces in Northern Ireland were on full alert last night as thousands of "loyalists" began a series of protests against the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Golf plan hit out of bounds

By John Young

Mr Christopher Miles wants to turn his farm, near Betchingley, Surrey, into a golf course.

Houdini death

By David Sapsed

The Government's safety executive twice threatened legal action against the BBC earlier this year over the staging of a daredevil stunt planned for the Noel Edmonds' Late, Late Breakfast Show, it was learnt last night.

KNOWSLEY NORTH

Table with 2 columns: Candidate and Votes. Includes George Howarth (Lib) 17,403, Roger Brown (C) 10,679, David Hallswood (RCP) 1,960, Roger Weiss (Rainbow) 654, David Cory (Ind) 111, Labour majority 6,724.

There was a crumb of comfort for the Alliance in their defeat. In a poll conducted by Harris for ITN among 1,368 Knowsley voters as they left the polling booths, 80 per cent of all voters said that the defence clash, now resolved, between the two Alliance partners had made no difference to their views about the Alliance.

Tory's choice

Miss Anne McIntosh, aged 32, of Middleton in Teesdale, Co Durham, an honours law graduate of Edinburgh University, has been selected as the prospective Conservative candidate to fight the Workington constituency in Cumbria at the next election.

The seat is held, for Labour, by Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, who had a majority of 7,126 at the last election.

Miss Barbara Sleeman, who spent two months recovering from a broken shoulder after being fired from a cannon in an earlier show, said: "The BBC don't give a damn. They just want the viewers."

Advertisement for 'FORCED DISPOSAL HIGHLY IMPORTANT PUBLIC AUCTION' of Persian Carpets, Rugs and Runners. Includes details about H.M. Customs & Excise and three auctions at Ballington Grange Ltd.

Advertisement for 'BBC 'was warned about risky stunts''. Details a stunt by Michael Lush involving a helicopter escape from a crane, and mentions a warning from the BBC.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, possibly a page number or reference.

Test case begins over island atom test

A test case began in the High Court yesterday to decide whether hundreds of servicemen are entitled to bring legal actions claiming damages for cancer allegedly contracted after they witnessed the British atom and hydrogen bomb tests on Christmas Island.

Mr Melvyn Bruce Pearce, of Backwell, Bristol, a former lance corporal, is suing the Government, claiming that his illness was caused by the 10 months he served on the island from December 1957.

The Government sought to have Mr Pearce's claim for compensation struck out on the ground that under Section 10 of the Crown Proceedings Act, 1947, he had no right, as a member of the Armed Forces, to sue his employers for negligence.

But Mr Pearce, aged 49, believes he has found a way round the law which will enable him to claim compensation.

Mr Andrew Collins, QC, representing Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Defence, and the Ministry of Defence, said the preliminary issue for the court to decide was whether, as the ministry contended, the provisions of Section 10 provided the Government with a complete defence to Mr Pearce's claim.

Mr Collins said that, for the purpose of deciding the issue, the Government would assume that Mr Pearce could prove his illness the claim was in fact contested.

It was claimed that on Christmas Island Mr Pearce worked on a refrigeration unit used in connection with the atomic tests, saw the nuclear explosions, ate locally-grown food and swam in the sea.

"It is alleged that he contracted lymphoma and other cancerous illnesses as a result of exposure to radiation dur-

ing that time," Mr Collins said.

His illness started with a rash around the lymph glands in 1966 and a severe skin condition developed in 1970.

Mr Pearce claims that he was owed a duty of care not by his employer, the Army, but by the now defunct Atomic Energy Authority, whose military functions came under the control of the Ministry of Defence in 1973.

He alleges that the authority was in breach of its duty by failing to monitor equipment and warn servicemen of the health risks of swimming in radioactive waters and eating contaminated fruits.

Mr Collins said that, under Section 4(2) of the 1973 Atomic Energy Authority Weapons Group Act, the Defence Secretary took over the powers and liabilities of the authority, but kept the same rights he had always had in respect of legal actions brought by or against him.

The importance of this was that, whereas previously the Atomic Energy Authority had no exemption under section 10 of the Crown Proceedings Act from being sued, the Secretary of State did have exemption.

Mr Collins stressed that service personnel injured on duty had a right to claim compensation, even though they could not sue in the courts.

He said the Secretary of State for Social Services had certified that Mr Pearce's suffering would be treated as attributable to Army service for the purpose of entitlement to an award.

He said Section 10 was not meant to avoid payment of compensation but to give compensation in recognition of the special risks run by servicemen.

Fall kills leading woman jockey

By Angella Johnson

Miss Jayne Thompson, one of Britain's top women jockeys, died yesterday from injuries she suffered in a fall while riding Hot Betty at Catterick last Saturday.

Miss Thompson, aged 22, had been in a coma in Middlesbrough General Hospital.

She did not regain consciousness in spite of repeated playing of recorded messages from friends and colleagues.

Her family decided to switch off her life support system at 1pm after further medical tests proved negative.

The daughter of Mr Ron Thompson, a trainer in Doncaster, she is the first woman jockey to be killed from injuries sustained while racing, since women were granted licences to ride more than a decade ago.

Miss Thompson, who rode seven winners last season, had to stop racing for a while after a fall on May 5, had ridden two winners this season.

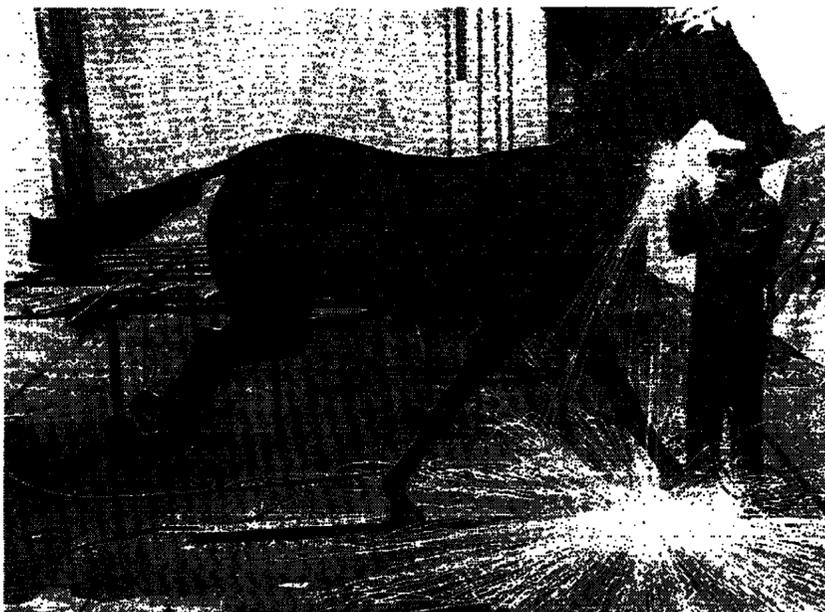
Her death highlights the dangers faced by jockeys when riding over jumps.

Mrs Jessica Charles-Jones, a fellow jockey, said last night: "Jayne was the tops. It is a terrible shame that this sort of thing always happens to the best. I will now have to go out and try to ride a few winners for her."

Miss Dorothy Laird, secretary of the Lady Jockeys Association, said: "We are extremely sorry and all are devastated. Jayne was such a likeable and exuberant professional. She was a good rider."

The last jockey to be killed at a horse racing meet was Mr Michael Blackmore, an amateur rider, aged 30.

He was riding Silent Shadow at Market Rasen in May when he was unseated and hit by one of the other 18 horses.



Mike Dennis working in his Birmingham studio on one of a dozen 8ft high sculptures which will decorate the main railway line between Birmingham and Wolverhampton (Photograph: Philip Dunn).

Bradford City disaster

Confusion over crucial fire warnings

By Ian Smith

The Bradford City Football Club secretary's confusion yesterday over two crucial letters he received about fire risks in the grandstand where 56 people were to die led a High Court judge to impose a weekend ban on any attempt by the official to refresh his memory.

Mr Justice Cantley ordered Mr Terence Newman, aged 57, not to discuss the case or re-read transcripts of evidence he gave to the judicial inquiry which last year investigated the catastrophe at the Valley Parade ground.

The order was applied for by Mr Michael Ogden, QC, one of the barristers fighting to prove liability for the fire against the club, the Health and Safety Executive and the now-defunct West Yorkshire County Council, the fire authority.

The application at the High Court in Leeds came after an admission by Mr Newman that he could not accurately remember whether he had filed or passed on the letters from the county council, even after being given 15 minutes alone in a side room to read copies of the correspondence.

Before the brief adjournment Mr Newman told the judge: "I know this seems strange but the inquiry was two years ago, lots has happened in between. Without looking at what I said two years ago I cannot remember a thing."

He later admitted that the letters drew attention to the fire hazard posed by mounds of litter in concrete cavities under grandstand seats, but could recall only that he had

passed the letter containing the most explicit warning to the club vice-chairman.

Mr Newman agreed that there was a fair chance of the wooden grandstand, dating from 1909, catching fire.

Earlier, Mr Stafford Heginbotham, the club chairman, told the court that he had known there was a fire risk in the grandstand, but he had not been alerted to the enormity of the danger.

He said that the club was walking a financial tightrope after being dragged from the edge of bankruptcy, and he had not considered spending club funds on having piles of rubbish removed from under the grandstand floor.

In May 1985, when a spectator dropped a cigarette, it rolled through a crack in the hardwood floor and started the fire.

A test case is being brought by a widow, Mrs Susan Fletcher, and her son, Martin, aged 12, to prove liability for the fire against Bradford City Football Club, the Health and Safety Executive and the now defunct West Yorkshire County Council.

Mrs Fletcher lost her husband, second son, brother-in-law and his father in the fire. If her case succeeds another 109 victims and relatives will pursue claims for damages.

Running in tandem in the court is a test case brought against the same defendants by Sgt David Britton, aged 42, with the support of the Police Federation. If he wins then 44 other West Yorkshire policemen on duty on the day of the disaster will launch damages claims.

The case will resume on Monday.

New road warning signs after fatal crash

New guidelines to improve the standard of roadwork warning signs were issued by the Department of Transport three weeks after a motorway crash in which 13 people died. Preston Crown Court was told yesterday.

The regulations recommend that only as a last resort should three lanes filter into one, as was happening at the time of the accident.

Mr John Bonnyman, a coach driver, aged 63, from Edinburgh, who is accused of ploughing into a line of vehicles on the M6 in Lancashire, denies four specimen charges of causing death by reckless driving. The jury was told that tentative calculations indicated the Edinburgh to London coach was travelling at 60-62mph on impact.

One survivor, Mr William Robson, from Ryton, Co Durham, said he led his wife and child to safety after the coach landed on its roof. But he also saw two people burnt to death in a car. "It was horrific," he said.

Insp Malcolm Herbert, of Lancashire police, who told the jury about the new regulations, also said that the signs in operation that day were within the rules as they then existed.

He said it was established policy by Lancashire police not to use electric warning systems in support of temporary road signs.

"Drivers tend not to react to warning signs. They tend to react to a hazard when they have seen it," he said.

The trial continues on Monday.

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Overdose was 'large enough to kill'

A Home Office pathologist yesterday said that the massive drug overdose given to a terminal cancer patient was large enough to kill.

Dr Michael Green told Leeds Crown Court that between 1,000 and 1,500 milligrams of injected phenobarbitone would be fatal.

Dr Green was giving evidence in the trial of Dr John Carr, aged 59, of Branch Road, Lower Wortley, Leeds, who denies attempting to murder a retired Leeds engineer, Ronald Mawson, in August last year.

The prosecution alleges Dr Carr injected Mr Mawson the day after he returned home from a hospice. He died two days later.

Dr Green told the court he would not have prescribed phenobarbitone to a man in Mr Mawson's state.

"I would have been cautious about giving a sedative," he said. "I don't regard this as respectable medical practice."

When questioned by Mr Bernard Hargrove, QC, for the defence, Dr Green agreed that Mr Mawson's death could have been through natural causes but added: "I think it is much more probable that Mr Mawson died because he received that injection."

Dr Green said phenobarbitone was rarely used except for treating epilepsy. The trial continues.



Mr Warman, victim of attack.

Printer is jailed for pub attack

By Michael Horsnell

A dismissed Times printer was sentenced to nine months' imprisonment yesterday after a jury found him guilty of unlawfully wounding the newspaper's property correspondent, Mr Christopher Warman.

Robin Shirfield, aged 47, who was dismissed last January when News International moved to Wapping, east London, plunged a beer glass into the side of Mr Warman's face in a public house.

The jury at Southwark Crown Court, south London, found him guilty by a 10-2 majority after deliberating for nearly two-and-a-half hours.

But Shirfield, a married man from Wood Green, north London, was cleared of the more serious charge of wounding Mr Warman, aged 48, with intent to do him grievous bodily harm.

The public gallery of the court was packed with Shirfield's colleagues from the National Graphical Association.

The attack on Mr Warman occurred on February 20 in the Pakenham Arms public house near The Times' former offices in Gray's Inn Road.

Mr Warman received cuts to his neck, ear and jaw and was taken to hospital for treatment.

Shirfield, who has been unemployed since the start of the Wapping dispute, had told the jury, during the three-day trial, that he had been in another public house near by and was on his way home when the attack, which he denied, happened.

Man cleared of threats

By Michael Horsnell

A printer was acquitted at Thames magistrates' court yesterday on a charge of threatening words and behaviour near the News International plant in Wapping, east London, on June 17.

Mr Anthony Adams, aged 42, of Great Horkeley, Colchester, denied the offence. Three other men were given unconditional bail.

Backlash may follow campaign

By Sheila Gunn

The Government is expecting a moral backlash to the explicit details in its planned public information campaign against the spread of Aids.

Advertisements and leaflets, which will go to 23 million homes, are not generally regarded as "lurid". But government sources recognize that they are bound to upset some people.

It was emphasized yesterday that the Government was prepared to weather such complaints because of the urgency in getting its message across - that Aids kills.

Offence is expected to be taken by some people at descriptions of the ways in which the disease can be contracted and emphasis on the need to use condoms.

The message which came out of a top-level Cabinet committee, chaired by Lord Whitelaw, after its first meeting this week, was that people should stick to one sexual partner. If this rule was broken then they should make sure a condom was used.

The controversial issue of screening particular sections of the population - or overseas visitors - has not yet been discussed in detail by the committee. Doctors are strongly against any form of compulsory screening, but government sources believe objections to the idea may change.

The battle against Aids

Bishops call for change in morals

By Angella Johnson

Roman Catholic bishops in England and Wales have rejected the idea of using condom contraceptives as a weapon in the battle against Aids.

The Aids epidemic can be contained only by a substantial change in people's moral attitudes, they said. Instead, the bishops announced after a four-day conference in Hertfordshire.

Aids, South Africa, peace and disarmament, and Sunday racing were among the moral issues debated by Roman Catholic bishops of England and Wales during the conference.

Cardinal Basil Hume, who chaired the sessions this week, told a press conference in London yesterday that, although the bishops extended "their deep compassion" to all those who suffered from Aids, they could not accept the use of contraceptive sheaths.

"The position of the Catholic Church on this matter has not altered," he said. "That means accepting that the sexual expression of love is reserved to marriage."

A short statement issued from the conference declared: "The most effective and long-term method of containing this threatening epidemic must consist in a substantial change in moral and social attitudes and behaviour."

"Programmes of public education or information must be based on this fundamental principle."

Cardinal Hume said that

Precautions boost for sales

By Richard Lander

Commission, with the watchdog body recommending price restraints on its condoms on both occasions.

Such constraints have done little to hurt LIG, which has earned record profits every year since 1982, with condoms still producing impressive profit margins of about 18 per cent.

However, this impressive growth probably has more to do with the strategy followed by Mr Alan Woltz, who took over as chairman with a new management team at a time of declining fortunes in 1979.

What Mr Woltz, an aggressively-determined American, has done is to reduce LIG's reliance on condoms and rubber gloves and transform the company into a diversified group whose interests include photoprocessing and fine china.

LIG has so far refrained from aiming at the British homosexual market - perhaps for fear of tarnishing its image - but its Dutch subsidiary has test-marketed a "gay" condom.

avoid suggestions that it is profiting from the suffering of others, especially when extra publicity is given to its share price - at present just off its record high at 253½p - and next week's interim results, which analysts expect to include a 17 per cent rise in pretax profits to £12.3 million.

The company is not unaccustomed to dealing with unwelcome publicity.

Originally known as the London Rubber Company, the name was changed to LRC International in the late 1960s to dissociate the company from the schoolboy joke image that condoms attracted. That was changed to the present name in 1985, to remove the word rubber from the group's notepaper.

In addition, LIG might fear that any anti-Aids campaign could draw renewed attention to the fact that it makes well over 90 per cent of the condoms sold in Britain.

This dominance has twice drawn the scrutiny of the Monopolies and Mergers

MP will seek help for jobless

By Ian Smith

Mr Piers Merchant, the Conservative MP who tried living on the standard of unemployment benefit as an experiment, promised yesterday to seek a better deal for the long-term unemployed.

He is to report to the Prime Minister and Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, and will seek talks with the gas and electricity boards about the problems low income families have.

The MP for Newcastle upon Tyne Central and his family had moved for a week into a small flat in Scotswood, one of the city's poorest areas.

He said he was convinced the earnings rule preventing unemployed people earning more than £4 a week (£8 for couples) on top of their benefit should be changed.

Drug for baby 50 times too strong

By Ian Smith

A baby died after a heart surgeon gave him a drug 50 times too strong during an operation, an inquest was told yesterday.

The surgeon, Mr Alan Yates, said he had asked an anaesthetist, Dr Michael Thompson, to give him 10 ml of the drug to inject into Max Gaughan, aged six weeks.

Mr Yates said: "I didn't say I wanted it diluted because it's never, ever used undiluted."

But Dr Thompson assumed the surgeon wanted the concentrated form of the drug, which temporarily stops the heart to allow surgery.

Mr Yates injected it into the baby and asked for another 10 ml.

The surgeon then performed a successful 1½ hour operation. It was only when they tried to revive the boy that they realized their mistake.

Dr Thompson told the inquest he was expecting to be asked for 80-100 ml of cardioplegia, and when Mr Yates asked for such a small quantity he assumed he wanted it undiluted.

The boy's father, Mr Ashley Gaughan, a post-office engineer, looked close to tears and frequently held his head in his hands as he heard the details.

His wife was still too upset to attend the inquest at Southwark in south London.

The operation was performed at Guy's Hospital, in south London, in August this year.

Mr Gaughan, of Graham Crescent, Portslade, East Sussex, refused to comment after the hearing.

A verdict of misadventure was recorded.

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Tougher line urged for some assaults

The Lord Chancellor yesterday urged magistrates to impose tough sentences for any assaults on people in "vulnerable" positions, such as policemen and conductors and bar staff (Our Legal Affairs Correspondent writes).

But Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, rejected criticism of apparent inconsistencies in sentencing by magistrates, saying it would be easy to program a computer to produce the "right" sentence every time - but although that would give absolute consistency, it would not give justice.

Lord Hailsham, in a speech in Bath to the Somerset and South Avon branch of the Magistrates' Association, said: "Assaults on persons who occupy vulnerable positions call for exemplary sentences."

"For assaults on policemen, bus and train crews, publicans and bar staff and the like, a custodial sentence should be considered though only imposed when necessary."

For offences resulting in "substantial financial gain", such as the overloading of commercial vehicles, illegal disposal of waste, or salmon and deer poaching, minimum financial penalties should be "the rule rather than the exception."

It was the "easiest thing in the world for academics and statisticians and journalists" to point to apparent sentencing inconsistencies, he said.

Consistent sentencing could be produced simply by reducing the number of sentencing options and variables to be taken into account, and producing a sentencing program for a computer.

Having set in all the variables "it would merely be necessary to press a key to produce the 'right' sentence". The wide discretion given to the bench was recognition that "life is not mechanistic".

In his address Lord Hailsham also strongly criticized suggestions that magistrates should be made more politically accountable. At best these ideas were "crackpot", at worst they struck "at the very root of freedom".

Allegations that political pressure was brought to bear on magistrates in the miners' dispute dealing with large numbers of cases were "utterly false" and "pure fabrications or the delusions of disordered minds".

Criminal Justice Bill Customs get wider power in drug cases

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

New powers for customs officers to hold suspected drug carriers and anonymity for rape victims from the moment of complaint are among new details of the Criminal Justice Bill to emerge with its publication yesterday.

Courts will be able to remand defendants to customs custody for eight days rather than prison to help to defeat drug smugglers and swindlers while rape victims are granted anonymity from when they first make a complaint and not the time of charge as now.

The 128-clause Bill contains far-reaching proposals which give courts new powers to tackle serious crime; improve the lot of the victim; change the jury system; reform trial procedures and extradition law.

Chief among its proposals are new powers for courts to confiscate from criminals proceeds of crime where sums of more than £10,000 are involved.

The High Court will be able to freeze a defendant's assets up to the amount of the sum involved, whether lawfully gained or not, and have them sold to meet that sum.

Introducing the Bill Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, said: "There is no reason why those (other than drug traffickers) who commit other highly lucrative offences - the swindlers, the robbers, the traders in pornography - should be able to salt away the proceeds to enjoy on their release from prison."

The confiscation powers are backed by proposals drawn from the Roskill report on serious fraud, in particular to create a serious fraud office under the Attorney General to investigate and prosecute the most serious and complex frauds.

At the same time, the rules of evidence will be modernized so that business documents are admissible in their own right and "can speak for themselves" if based on information from someone with direct knowledge of the facts. That will apply to all criminal trials and not just to fraud.

There will be a new procedure for the taking of evidence from overseas. Written statements will be as admissible as an oral statement by the same person.

For the first time, too, the Bill enables evidence to be given by live video link, either from abroad or in cases of sexual or violent assault where the witness is a child.

To help to tackle crime across international frontiers the law on extradition is overhauled to enable the United Kingdom to sign the European convention on extradition.

The Government will have discretion to waive the so-called prima facie rule - the need for a foreign state requesting extradition to show it has a case - with countries with an "approved" system of justice.

Court of Appeal's sentencing guide

On sentencing the Bill seeks to reinstate a modified version of the Attorney General's power to refer crown court sentences to the Court of Appeal where he considers they raise questions of public importance.

The court can then state or reaffirm the principles to be followed in sentencing in similar cases in future.

A similar provision was rejected by the Lords when the Prosecution of Offences Bill. This time the proposal does not involve a "post mortem" on a particular sentence, referred on the basis that it was deemed "wrong".

Nor will the Court of Appeal be asked what sentence it thought should have been imposed instead; but rather to affirm a general principle on issue of public interest.

Courts will also be granted powers to impose new maximum penalties of 14 years for carrying firearms in furtherance of crime and for the main offences of corruption.

Curb on challenge to jurors

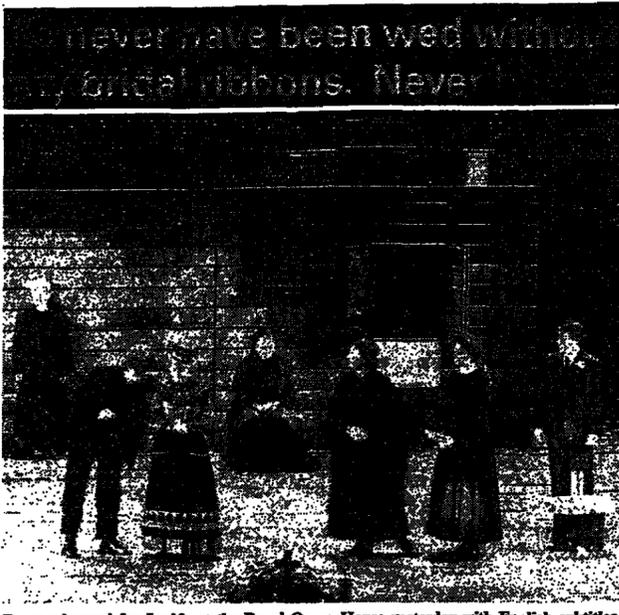
The right to elect trial by jury is abolished for the offences of driving while disqualified; taking and driving away vehicles; common assault and criminal damage valued below £2,000.

Maximum penalties for those offences are reduced to six months (three months for criminal damage).

The power of magistrates to order offenders to be detained for up to four days in police cells is repealed; and a power for courts to order offenders to forfeit goods connected with their offence, to apply to all offences (not just as now to those carrying a maximum penalty of two or more years).

The position of the victim is to be improved. In future courts will have to give reasons where they order compensation if they have power to do so.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme is put on a statutory basis and victims for the first time will be entitled to compensation as of right.



Dress rehearsal for Jenifa at the Royal Opera House yesterday with English subtitles. (Photograph: Mark Pepper)

Opera-goers objecting to captions

By Gavin Bell, Arts Correspondent

The stage is set for the first act of an artistic controversy at the Royal Opera on Monday, with the introduction of surtitles for the premiere of Janacek's tragic opera, Jenifa.

The experiment has already aroused opposition from some regular opera patrons, who maintain the projection of translations on to a black graphic screen above the proscenium arch will distract from the performance.

The system has been used for children's matinees, and for touring productions by the Glyndebourne Opera, but this will be its debut evening performance at Covent Garden.

Mr Paul Findlay, the assistant director, is optimistic that the audience will appreciate the opportunity to follow the nuances of the production, which is being performed in the original Czechoslovak.

"We think it is essential to give the public the means to understand what they are seeing and hearing. The system has received overwhelming support from children, and we believe it deserves a wider audience."

The £22,000 computerized system projects a maximum of two lines of text, with each character nine inches high, on to the screen more than 30 feet above the stage. About 500 slides will be used during the three-hour performance.

Mr Max Finbow, the technical director, has been grappling with a number of difficulties as most of the equipment was stolen from his office last August.

The replacements arrived only two weeks ago, and technical problems have persisted. However he believes it will be all right on the night.

Professor Mitchell said the council had asked the Government for an extra £40 million over three years. Otherwise, he predicted "disastrous consequences" from cutting grants for first class research projects.

Professor Mitchell also said the possible installation next month of the most powerful type of supercomputer, a Cray X-MP/48, costing more than £4 million, was still the subject of negotiations between the British and American governments. It would be kept at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory, near Oxford, and be available to all university scientists.

The American Government had placed restrictions on the use of the computer because the machine is on the list of strategic technology, which would prevent publication of the results of scientists who used it.

Family Law Reform Bill

Equal rights for illegitimate children

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

A child conceived by artificial insemination by donor with the consent of its mother's husband is to have the same legal status and rights as a child of the marriage.

The proposal is contained in the Family Law Reform Bill published yesterday, which aims to give equal legal rights to the 126,000 children born in England and Wales outside wedlock every year and to do away with the stigma attached to illegitimacy.

The Bill will also give illegitimate children the right to establish their parentage. The Bill, based on two

reports from the Law Commission, will do away with the need, so far as is possible, to describe children as "illegitimate" in legislation or legal documents.

It amends the law of maintenance so that they have the same legal rights as other children. Fathers of illegitimate children will be able to apply to a court for an order to share with the mother all parental rights and duties.

Legitimate children would be put on the same legal footing in respect of inheritance - at present if the father or mother of such a child dies intestate, the child is already entitled to succeed but that does not apply in the case of a death of a brother, sister, uncle, aunt or other relative.

November 14 1986

PARLIAMENT

Howe reaffirms policy of no deals with terror states

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Government will do no deals with terrorists and is determined to deal decisively with states that sponsor terrorism, Sir Geoffrey Howe told the Commons during the resumed debate on the Queen's Speech.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary stressed the importance of joint international action in the fight against terrorism. He said that the Government's determination to deal decisively with states that sponsored terrorism did not preclude contacts with those who might be able to help secure the release of hostages.

The Government remained deeply concerned about Mr Alec Collett and Mr John McCarthy, the two British hostages in Lebanon, and about Mr Brian Keenan, the dual Irish-British citizen. It was doing what it could to secure their freedom, he stated that while maintaining the principle of no substantive concessions.

Britain's EEC partners had recently reaffirmed their determination not to make concessions to terrorists and that was a commitment to which the Government attached much importance.

"In our view concessions lead to more, not less, hostage taking. This Government will not do deals with terrorists for the release of hostages. This is not an easy policy to follow. Sometimes it is agonising, but it is right."

On disarmament, Sir Geoffrey said that the British people would not fall for the Labour Party's hollow and naive policy of renouncing our nuclear weapons for nothing in return.

That policy would smash the western alliance which had underpinned British freedom for 40 years. It was difficult to

believe that any major western party committed to peace and disarmament could choose this point in history to try to pull the rug out from under the Nato position.

At the very moment when years of patient diplomacy to bring the Russians to the negotiating table were starting to pay off, with substantial new agreements in sight in different areas, the Opposition proposed that we should throw away the cards that had brought us to that position.

For all the new thinking in Mr Gorbachev's Soviet Union, for all the skilful presentation and dramatic initiatives, the facts of the East-West division remained basically the same. The Soviet Union talked far more about peace and disarmament, but had in practice not stopped steadily building up its already massive forces.

Any party which refused to face up to that fact could not be trusted with the defence of the United Kingdom. One-sided disarmament had been repeatedly tried and had repeatedly failed. Unilateral gestures were likely to be destabilising and damaging.

Nuclear weapons had prevented any war in Europe for the past 40 years. As successive governments had acknowledged, the UK's own nuclear capability had been essential both to give our country security and to deter nuclear blackmail.

While the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies retained a massive superiority in conventional forces and chemical weapons, we must keep our nuclear deterrent. It would be folly indeed to abandon nuclear weapons and so make Europe safe for conventional or chemical warfare.

The Government took a consistent and sensible approach to these questions. It insisted that Britain's defences

should be maintained. But it was also ready for dialogue with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

It believed that such contacts allowed it to influence the Soviet leadership and, gradually, build up cooperation. The Soviet leadership acknowledged that the UK could make an important contribution to greater confidence between East and West and a more stable and secure world. That was why the Prime Minister would be visiting the Soviet Union on Mr Gorbachev's personal invitation in the first half of next year. Mr Gorbachev respected Mrs Thatcher precisely because she was not weak or ready to surrender Britain's interests but because she combined firmness in our national defence with patience and creativity in negotiation.

"We will not give away something for nothing and so put the UK's defence at risk. We shall continue to work for confidence between the Soviet Union and the UK. But we shall not take that confidence for granted."

Leadership and consistency will remain the hallmarks of our policy. We will continue to promote Britain's interests, to do what is necessary and to do what is right."

Earlier, Sir Geoffrey had reviewed various aspects of foreign affairs in the five months since the House last debated the subject. These included measures to be taken against Syria in the wake of the Hindawi affair; the continuing search for peace talks in the Middle East; his mission to South Africa seeking an end to apartheid and heightened tensions in the region after President Machel's tragic death; and political cooperation within the EEC.

He said the Prime Minister was leaving today for important talks with President Reagan.

Healey attacks Reagan move towards Iran

President Reagan's television broadcast on his government's contacts with Iran was bitterly attacked by Mr Denis Healey in the Commons when he replied to Sir Geoffrey Howe.

"We now know that President Reagan has been sending arms to Iran in the hope of thereby securing the release of American hostages," Mr Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on Foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said. The Foreign Secretary had rightly denounced this practice in his speech, though did not have the courage to refer to the issue to which this is most relevant at the present time.

The Khomeni government of Iran is not only a self-confessed sponsor of international terrorism. It is also the main enemy of all western interests in the Middle East.

"President Reagan told the world yesterday that he was engaged in bargaining with this regime at the very moment he was asking the British Prime Minister to make British bases available for the bombing of Tripoli."

"I found his attempts to explain his behaviour on television last night stupefyingly incredible. I hope the Foreign Secretary will tell us what the Prime Minister is going to say to the President about this extraordinary behaviour which is so damaging to trying to find a common approach to the problems of international terrorism."

If Iran was successful against Iraq, it could set the whole of the Muslim world ablaze with anti-Western fanaticism, deal a shattering blow to all the West's friends in the Arab world and risk a massive increase in the price of oil.

Turning to other issues, Mr Healey said that the Foreign Secretary should take a lesson from the US and persuade the Commonwealth and the EEC to accept the same sort of action against South Africa as the American Congress had imposed. The sanctions should be mandatory.

There had not been one word from the Government against state terrorism, financed and organized by the US since Nicaragua in flat defiance even of its own Congress.

The Government should give the latest position regarding the Israeli government's response to the enquiry five days ago as to the circumstances in which Mr Mordchaiah Vanunu left the UK. Mr Vanunu, an Israeli technician, is now imprisoned in Israel after telling The Sunday Times of alleged nuclear arms production there.

"If he is not able to give us an answer, suggest he get his skates on and get us one by Tuesday. It is intolerable that Mr Vanunu may well have been

kidnapped from the UK by members of the same organization who helped in the kidnapping of Mr Dikko not very long ago."

The Foreign Office should not lie supine and inert when laws were broken by another country with whom we had sought to have good relations with the UK.

The Prime Minister should insist that the US Government should not break the limits imposed by the Salt treaty.

"What we need if we want to stop the arms race is a freeze. We need to stop the development of new military technologies."

The tragedy was that the Prime Minister might try and sabotage the agreement reached at Reykjavik because it threatened his major electoral weapon.

She believed that if progress were made along the lines laid down in Reykjavik she would not get Trident because abolition of all strategic ballistic missiles would take place between 1991 and 1996, precisely the period in which she was hoping to receive Trident.

"Is he going to make Trident an obstacle to an arms agreement which can be reached and which has already been sketched out between the US and the Soviet Union? I believe it would be a tragedy if she took that line."

The cancellation of Trident would leave Britain free to maintain its conventional contribution to Nato. The British people had had cold war propaganda right up to the gills.

Mr Anthony Meyer (North West Cwyd, C) said that Syria had a key role to play in resolving the highly dangerous conflict in the Middle East. If Britain was prepared to ignore that in order to give vent to a gust of popular indignation, it could hardly expect that its European partners would be equally short-sighted.

Mr Guy Barnett (Greenwich, Lab) said that the House should address itself more seriously and more intelligently than the Foreign Secretary and Tory MPs had done to areas like Central America, Southern Africa and the Middle East where conflict could spread to engulf many other countries.

Mr Ivor Stanbrook (Orpington, C) said he was disappointed that the European Community had not yet achieved the type of mutual cooperation needed to fight terrorism.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab) criticized the view that one had either to back the Americans or the Russians.

"It is time that Britain returned to taking an independent position in relation to both of the two great powers."

SDP urges talks on Falklands

Mr Julian Amery (Brighton Pavilion, C) said that President Botha's reforms in South Africa had brought him some thanks from abroad and had cultivated very few prominent African leaders.

Mr Edward Garrett (Walsend, Lab) said the Government should pay more attention to matters affecting the Commonwealth. The European Community was in trouble and had lost its impetus. He said with regret that Britain's aspirations had never been achieved and were not likely to be achieved.

Sir Frederic Bennett (Torbay, C) said that he did not have any faith in the Soviet Union's peaceful intentions so long as it continued its aggression, genocide and slaughter in Afghanistan. Did anyone imagine that the Russians would have invaded if the Afghans had had nuclear weapons?

It would be impossible for the Labour Party to go into the next election seeking to reconcile their policy of closing nuclear bases and getting rid of the British nuclear deterrent with membership of Nato.

Mr Robert Maclean (Caithness and Sutherland, SDP) said that he did not call for the immediate transfer of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands to the Argentine government and he believed it was necessary to reach a settlement in the South Atlantic that would allow the UK to abandon the heavy cost of maintaining the "Fortress Falklands" policy.

But it was now essential for Britain to open discussions with the Argentines to reach a settlement in the South Atlantic that would allow the UK to abandon the heavy cost of maintaining the "Fortress Falklands" policy.

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"It is time that Britain returned to taking an independent position in relation to both of the two great powers."

No evidence of criminal offence in Vanunu case

Mr George Robertson, an Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, said that the television speech of President Reagan left a lot to be desired. All the magic he could summon up was simply not going to sell this used car to the public.

The disclosures were a direct hit at Washington's own allies in the Middle East who had fought a courageous and sometimes very painful war against the Ayatollah.

Mr Timothy Reston, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, replying to the debate, said Mr Vanunu was last reported to have been seen on September 30 when he checked out of his London hotel. On October 8 he was listed as a missing person and police inquiries started. On October 21 an Israeli spokesman denied press reports that he was in Israel and had been remanded in custody after appearing before a court in Jerusalem the day before.

On November 9, after Britain had made informal inquiries, the Israeli government admitted that Mr Vanunu was in detention in Israel and denied that he had been kidnapped from British soil.

On November 10 the British Ambassador in Tel Aviv was instructed to seek clarification of how Mr Vanunu came to be in Israel and on November 13. The Israeli government said in reply to his representation that Mr Vanunu left Britain of his own volition and through normal departure procedures and that his departure involved no violation of British law.

The Home Secretary has received a report from the Metropolitan Police giving details of their inquiries and their report has not revealed any evidence that any criminal offence has been committed in Britain.

"Allegations that there were contacts between the British and Israeli governments about Mr Vanunu before he disappeared are totally without foundation."

On terrorism, Mr Reston said that every attempt to serve its own interest and there were continuing predicaments for states of where the borderline lay between principle and expediency in pursuit of national interests. But successive British governments had firmly taken the line that at a time of growth in terrorism it was not in the national interest, but rather snatched of expediency, to let terrorists believe that they could swap the hostages for cash, money or convicted criminals in British jails.

"We will, through dialogue, seek further opportunities to secure the release of our hostages."

Doing deals with terrorists only gave a further turn to the ratchet, increasing terrorism by encouraging the belief that taking hostages was worth while because they could be exchanged for substantial reward.

"We do not believe that is sensible territory for any civilized country to enter."

This was the reason behind the concerted calls for collective action against international terrorism, the new curse of our times.

Labour's attitude to defence was extraordinary. They were wedded to the concept of giving up nuclear weapons without demanding reductions from the Soviet Union in return.

One-sided, unbalanced nuclear disarmament would haunt Mr Kinnock all the way up to the next election and ring in his ears as the British electorate voted for the straightforward proposition that as long as they have got one they wanted one.

Why did Labour trust the Soviets to behave themselves with nuclear weapons when they did not trust them to give exit visas to Sakharov or thousands of Jews? Confidence in a nation could not be divided into neat packages. You could not say we trust you about nuclear weapons but not about human rights.

Jews may be invited to embassy in Moscow

Mr Timothy Reston, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, promised to take a careful note of a suggestion that Soviet refuseniks should be invited to cultural events at the British embassy in Moscow and to pass this on to the embassy.

Replying to an adjournment debate in the Commons on Thursday night on the plight of Jews in the Soviet Union, he said that it was necessary to bear in mind the risks involved for the refuseniks and the problems that any Soviet citizens had in gaining access to the embassy.

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THE TIMES

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WORLD SUMMARY

Civilians die in Gulf War flare-up

Bahrain (Reuters) - Iraqi jets destroyed a crowded Iranian oil platform in the central Gulf yesterday, hours after Iran hit Baghdad with a surface-to-surface missile.



among the estimated 250 people in the area and leaving the surrounding sea ablaze.

US flier guilty

Managua - Mr Eugene Hasenfus, the American airman on trial in Nicaragua after being shot down in a plane loaded with arms for US-backed rebels, has changed his plea to guilty (Alan Tomlinson writes).

Flight ban challenged

Washington (Reuters) - The Reagan Administration yesterday ordered an immediate halt to airline services between the United States and South Africa.

Crisis call by France

London (AFP) - President Mitterrand of France called on industrialized nations to launch a "Marshall Plan" to end the Third World's economic crisis in an opening speech to the 13th annual summit between France and its main allies in Africa.

Saboteurs sought

Oso - Mr Steingrimur Hermannsson, the Prime Minister of Iceland, is to seek the extradition from the US of two members of the Sea Shepherd conservation activist group thought to have carried out acts of sabotage against the Icelandic whaling industry last week.

Swiss plan chemicals rule action

Zurich (Reuters) - Swiss officials promised a change in rules governing the chemical industry yesterday and said their confidence was shattered by a chemical leak that polluted the Rhine.

Experts admit that they are still far from knowing the full effects on the local environment and the Rhine. More contaminated water will flow downstream until traces of heavy pesticide are removed from the bottom of the river, the experts say.

Wave of bewilderment and outrage sweeps America Reagan's Iran blunder brings comparisons with Carter and Nixon

The Iran fiasco is being called President Reagan's biggest blunder since he took office. A wave of bewilderment and outrage has swept through Congress, into the newspapers and out into the American heartland as the bizarre details have leaked out.

There are calls for resignations and dismissals; the White House has had to stonewall an onslaught of derisive criticism is expected from America's opponents and allies alike; and widespread scepticism had greeted the President's lame and belated explanation.

They applaud his motives in wanting to free the hostages, but say their rescue became an obsession that skewed American diplomacy and obscured US security interests. Hostage

Another talked of the "byzantine twilight of the Reagan Administration". One said America's "foreign policy blunder" was the result of an obsession with freeing hostages no matter what the long-term consequences.

It is the disarray in the White House since the story broke that has also caused dismay. The press has been full of stories, leaked from anguished officials, of shouting matches between Admiral John Poindexter, the National Security Adviser, and Mr

Peres hints at Israeli involvement

Mr Shimon Peres all but confirmed yesterday that Israel has acted as the carrier for American arms to Iran as part of a deal to release hostages.

Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Defence Minister, also came close to admission. Mr Peres carefully denied throughout that the Israeli Government had been involved in any such arms deals, but his denials do not cover the 800 or so officially-approved Israeli arms dealers.

According to *Sword*, a specialist Israeli arms publication, Israel has supplied \$500 million (£347 million) of the

Donald Regan, the Chief of Staff, on whether the affair should be revealed or kept secret. It is unclear whether Mr George Shultz and Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Secretaries of State and Defence, really knew what was happening, or whether they were kept in the dark because their opposition was known.

It is not even clear whether the arms deal was legal, despite an apparent assurance by Mr Edwin Meese, the Attorney General. "You get the impression nobody is at the tiller," one strategic studies analyst remarked.

Political perceptions count for much in Washington. The crisis comes when Mr Reagan is suffering a string of what are perceived as failures: the breakdown of the Reykjavik talks, which, despite his attempts to proclaim them as a setback after the failure of the Schultz/Schevardnadze meeting in Vienna; the Republican loss of control of the Senate; the growing criticism of the President from

There remains, of course, the intractable question now of what to do about the hostages. Those already released have been cautious, reticent, but there is a clear note of bitterness in their voices as they speak of heightened dangers for their fellow hostages in Lebanon.

Dr David Jacobsen, whose release triggered the present crisis, has appealed again and again for press restraint and patience. But it is too late.

Brazilian elections

When 69 million Brazilians vote in nationwide elections today they will not just be selecting another quadrennial crop of politicians. The 559 representatives in the Parliament will also comprise a Constitutional Assembly, whose task is to rewrite the basic rules of government.

Winning candidates face a constitutional deluge

One of the first assignments will be to establish a date for popular elections. President Sarney, the first civilian president since the military coup in 1964, was voted in as Vice-President last year by an electoral college, but became President after the death of Senator Tancreo Neves, the president-elect.

Under the old military government's rules, Senator Sarney would serve a six-year term, but he came to power promising a shorter mandate and sweeping changes in the ancient regime.



Dr David Jacobsen, the freed Lebanese hostage, displaying bracelets bearing the names of other American hostages.

Reagan gives own version of contacts

Washington (Reuters) - The following are excerpts from President Reagan's speech on his Administration's secret dealings with Iran: "I know you have been reading, seeing and hearing a lot of stories the past several days attributed to Danish sailors, unnamed observers at Italian ports and Spanish harbours, and especially unnamed government officials of my Administration."

Well, now you are going to hear the facts from a White House source, and you know my name. I wanted this time to talk with you about an extremely sensitive and profoundly important matter of foreign policy.

For 18 months now, we have had underway a secret diplomatic initiative to Iran. That initiative was undertaken for the simplest and best of reasons: to renew a relationship with the nation of Iran; to bring an honorable end to the bloody six-year war between Iran and Iraq; to eliminate state-sponsored terrorism and subversion; and to effect the safe return of all hostages.

For 10 days now, the US and world press have been full of reports and rumours about this initiative and these objectives. Now, my fellow Americans, there is an old saying that nothing spreads so quickly as a rumour. So I thought it was time to speak with you directly, to tell you first-hand about our dealings with Iran.

The charge has been made that the US has shipped weapons to Iran as ransom payment for the release of American hostages in Lebanon - that the US undercut its allies, and secretly violated

Uganda leader on five day visit

By Andrew McEwen Diplomatic Correspondent

President Museveni of Uganda, widely seen as a saviour of his troubled nation, arrives in Britain today for a five-day official visit.

Credited with drastically reducing bloodshed, Mr Museveni is to be left in no doubt about Whitehall's desire to help him restore stability.

Increased aid will be offered, including a new military training programme to replace the 32 British instructors whose current exercise ends this month.

Britain's strong links with the former protectorate - never a colony - will be emphasized during an audience with the Queen and meetings with the Prime Minister and Dr Robert Runcie, the Archbishop of Canterbury.

A Tanzanian-educated military tactician who seized power in January, Mr Museveni might not seem an obvious candidate for Whitehall enthusiasm, but his personal values have won respect.

A teetotal Anglican with a strong streak of self-dependence, he is seen as the man most likely to tackle Uganda's fundamental problem - rampant tribalism.

For 10 months Ugandans have enjoyed the unfamiliar taste of freedom. The mass slaughter of civilians in the Luwero Triangle north-west of Kampala ended when Museveni's National Resistance Army drove former government troops farther north.

Substantial remnants remain a continuing threat north of Gulu. Ugandan leaders, since independence in 1962, have enjoyed brief honeymoon years with Whitehall, only for relations to cool as evidence of brutal repression emerged.

In Mr Museveni's case the grounds for long-term optimism are stronger. When the NRA toppled General Tito Okello, who in turn had ousted Dr Milton Obote six months earlier, ordinary Ugandans were struck by their discipline.

After five years in the bush, excesses were to be expected from the barefoot guerrilla band. Previous conquering forces had treated victory as a licence to plunder; the NRA showed respect.

Despite some serious incidents, discipline remains the basis of the NRA's popular support. Some of Britain's future aid may focus on ensuring that troops are paid regularly - a key factor in maintaining behaviour standards.

Western diplomats link Mr Museveni's chances of conquering tribalism to economic factors. With a shattered economy, derelict infra-structure and an over-developed belief in Uganda's ability to stand alone without help from the International Monetary Fund, Mr Museveni remains vulnerable to tribal jealousies.

There is concern in Whitehall over his economic policy, which includes an unrealistic exchange rate and excessive taxes on coffee producers.

Britain's top political priority is to foster greater regional stability, particularly in Uganda's relations with Kenya. NAIROBI: Kenyan government officials are trying to work out an arrangement with their opposite numbers in Uganda under which some 1,600 Ugandans who fled into Kenya last weekend can return home and be given state protection.

According to a refugee spokesman, they are from the Bagisu tribe and refuse to go back over the border as they fear further attacks from their neighbours, the Sebei.

National GARDEN GIFT TOKENS advertisement with details on how to use them and contact information.



Mr Menk van de Poppel, one of the first people in The Netherlands to fish in the Rhine since it was polluted. "I throw the fish back and wash my hands when I get home," he said.

EEC to consider a levy on UK lamb

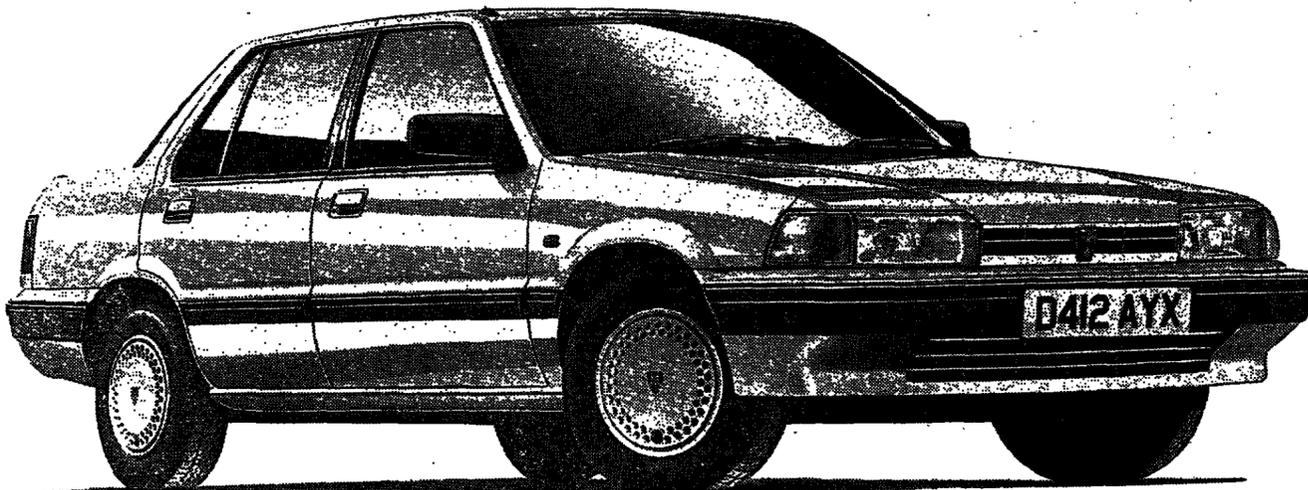
The European Community could impose an export levy on British lamb next week to make it less attractive to French shoppers, and cool the tempers of angry French farmers.

Washington View

Families should not make foreign policy, one commentator said last week. The White House showed failure of leadership in putting individuals above some larger national purpose, and thereby made American foreign policy itself a hostage.

Plea fails to halt switch of laboratory... children... (Vertical text on the left margin)

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Sydney judge
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Battle over MI5 man's memoirs

Sydney judge attacks Britain's 'serpentine weavings' in hearings

From Stephen Taylor, Sydney

A late attempt by the British Government to delay Monday's scheduled start of its action to gag Mr Peter Wright, the former MI5 officer, was yesterday sharply castigated by the Australian judge who is to hear the case.

Mr Justice Powell, faced with an appeal against his order that Whitehall should produce further confidential documents, said with obvious annoyance in the New South Wales Supreme Court that he felt "a rising sense of frustration" over what he termed "the serpentine weavings" of the Government.

Against a background of legal manoeuvrings which have gone on for more than a year, the judge also spoke



Mr Peter Wright: explosive allegations in book.

scathingly of distinctions being made by counsel for Whitehall which, he said, were "mumbo-jumbo" and "too exquisitely fine".

His ruling yesterday left no further room for doubt about the documents which he ordered to be handed over. These are: background notes and briefings relating to Mrs Thatcher's statement to the Commons in 1981 in which she cleared Sir Roger Hollis, former head of MI5, of being a Soviet double agent, and evidence of official approval given to the publication of previous books by Chapman Pincher and Nigel West.

The British Government later said it would seek through the Appeal Court a stay of Monday's proceedings. At the centre of the case is a manuscript by Mr Wright in which he reportedly maintained that Hollis, his former

boss, was a mole, and alleges illegal activities by MI5.

Yesterday's hearing was attended by senior civil servants recently arrived from London for the case, but not by Sir Robert Armstrong, the Cabinet Secretary, who, after a fracas with a cameraman at Heathrow, was more diplomatic on his arrival in Sydney on Thursday, suggesting that photographers use their "second best" cameras.

The sequence of events yesterday in the extraordinarily complex legal battle in which the case has become enmeshed was:

● Mr Malcolm Turnbull, counsel for Mr Wright, and the Heipemann publishing company in Australia, which wants to publish his memoirs, applied to Mr Justice Powell for an order to make the Government hand over the papers, which had not been among those made available earlier this week under another order.

● After considering Mr Turnbull's argument that the documents were germane to the issue of whether Mr Wright should be allowed to publish, Mr Justice Powell ordered that the papers be produced. He left open the issue of when, but hinted it should be on Tuesday, the day after the injunction hearing is due to begin.

● Mr Theo Simos, QC, who is appearing on behalf of Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, and the plaintiff in the case, then gave notice that he intended to appeal against the order, and asked that the Monday start be adjourned.

● The judge said that applications for adjournment had to be evaluated as to possible hardship for either party. He feared, he said, that if an adjournment was granted, the trial would not proceed this year. If what he had heard about the state of Mr Wright's health was accurate, "he may not be around when the trial ultimately comes on".

In the end the judge said the Government could make its appeal against the order, but he would proceed on the basis that the injunction case will start at 2 pm on Monday.

It was during the final stage of the day's hearing that Mr

Justice Powell became, he said, "testy". His judgment, he said, had been first delivered last week and no appeals had been made then.

He also took issue with what he said was Mr Simos' assertion that he had broken new ground in saying that the truth of Mr Wright's allegations was relevant.

This was sparked by an exchange in which the judge said: "I have always been under the impression that at some stage in this case I was going to have to say that, for example, if MI5 could make Gruyere cheese look like cheddar, would public interest be better served by them carrying on like mushrooms in the dark, or being told the truth?"

Mr Simos responded: "We submit that is not an issue. The judge: 'I have always thought it was'."

Later he added: "If the truth of the matter is that the (right) material reveals acts of treachery by the security service and others, and acts of an illegal nature, then much can be said that it is in the public interest to be made aware of such a state of affairs."

The Government maintains that the truth of the allegations is irrelevant, that whether Mr Wright's claims are true or false, or are public knowledge or not, he is prevented from



Sir Robert Armstrong: more diplomatic.

publishing them by his contract with the Crown.

This is despite the fact that for the purposes of the hearing the Government has admitted that Mr Wright's explosive central allegation about Sir Roger is true.

Peace marchers cross America



Men, women and tired children, who for months have been striding along the highways of the United States in a mass protest against nuclear weapons, nearing their destination this week. The Great Peace March arrives in Washington today after a trek of more than 3,000 miles across America from Los Angeles.

The march, which has shrunk and swelled in the eight-and-a-half months it

took to cross the deserts, mountains and plains of America, now comprises some 1,500 participants, who will gather today in the park opposite the White House for a final rally and a ceremony of prayers and farewells (Michael Binoya writes).

The marchers averaged 18 miles a day, and had something of the atmosphere of an extended family, with many young

people taking leave from work to join veteran anti-nuclear campaigners. The multi-coloured caravan, which mostly numbered 700, included 50 children. Some 400 made it all the way, with several participants from overseas, including Britain. There have been encounters with hostile opponents, but on the whole the march has seen few violent incidents. (Photograph: Jeff Share)

Detained Israeli linked to woman

By Nicholas Beeston, and Ian Murray in Jerusalem

Mr Mordechai Vanunu, the nuclear technician in custody in Israel for revealing secrets of his country's nuclear arsenal, was seeing a blonde woman before he disappeared in London. *The Sunday Times* confirmed yesterday.

The newspaper's editor, Mr Andrew Neil, said a woman called Cindy was seen with Mr Vanunu four days before he vanished.

Reports from Israel had suggested that Mr Vanunu was lured away from the Mountbatten Hotel in Covent Garden by a female undercover agent working for the Israeli intelligence service, Mossad, who took him back to Israel to be tried for treason.

He was last seen on September 30 when he checked out of his hotel.

Reports from Israel had suggested he may have gone to the continent with a woman who lured him on to a boat where he was arrested by Mossad agents in international waters.

Details of his return have still not been fully released by the Israeli authorities and speculation in Britain that he was kidnapped and sent back to Israel in a crate prompted the British Government to demand "clarification".

Jerusalem has denied that it broke any British laws and sent its version of the details in a diplomatic note to the British Ambassador in Israel, Mr William Squire, on Thursday.

The Foreign Office said it would not comment on the Israeli answer, but the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, is expected to reveal its contents in Parliament on Tuesday.

If Cindy was an agent it is still not clear how Mossad managed to locate Mr Vanunu so quickly in London after he arrived secretly, under a false name, to tell his story.

One suggestion is that he was identified to MI5 by the nuclear experts who were consulted to verify the technical details of his story. In turn MI5 passed the information on to Mossad.

This version would suggest that this was the reason Mrs Thatcher and Mr Pears discussed the case on the telephone - although this has been denied by both governments. Parliament, page 4

New York police action ends

New York - A six-day unofficial "amnesty" in the city which is often described as the crime capital of the world, has come to an end (Paul Valley writes).

New York's policemen have called off a work-to-rule after agreement was reached between city officials and police unions on a controversial new plan to rotate most police appointments every five years in an attempt to crack down on corruption in the force.

During the protest, police issued 91 per cent fewer parking and other traffic tickets than normal. Miscellaneous arrests also dropped, by 27 per cent.

The city's Police Commissioner, Mr Ben Ward, has declared that the scheme is being suspended pending talks with the union.

Call to free child detainees

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

The Black Sash, one of South Africa's leading civil rights organizations, launched a campaign yesterday to secure the release from jail by Christmas of an estimated 1,300 to 1,800 children being detained without trial under the state of emergency.

Meanwhile, the United Democratic Front (UDF), the largest and most radical of the anti-apartheid organizations still operating lawfully, has called on its supporters to observe a "Christmas against the Emergency" from December 16 to 26.

The UDF said that during this period white-owned shops should be boycotted, sporting fixtures and music festivals suspended, and shebeens (illicit drinking bars) in black townships closed.

Many young UDF members have been detained during the emergency, and the UDF is one of a number of groups

supporting the Black Sash campaign. Others include the Union of Jewish Women, the Detainees' Parents' Support Committee and Lawyers for Human Rights.

"If we don't succeed by Christmas, we won't stop trying. Children belong at home, not in jail," Mrs Ethel Wall, regional president of the Black Sash, said.

According to estimates by the Detainees' Parents' Support Committee and the Unrest Monitoring Group of the Progressive Federal Party (PPP), the official Opposition in the white House of Assembly, about 20,000 people have been imprisoned for varying periods since the state of emergency was declared on June 12.

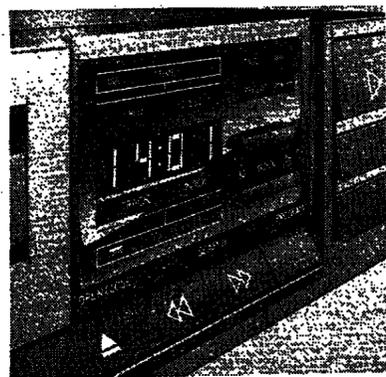
Of these, it is reckoned that at least 6,000, and possibly as many as 8,000, are under 18, and that between 1,300 and 1,800 are still in detention.

More than 400 are from the Witwatersrand area alone, where at least 50 children seem to have vanished.

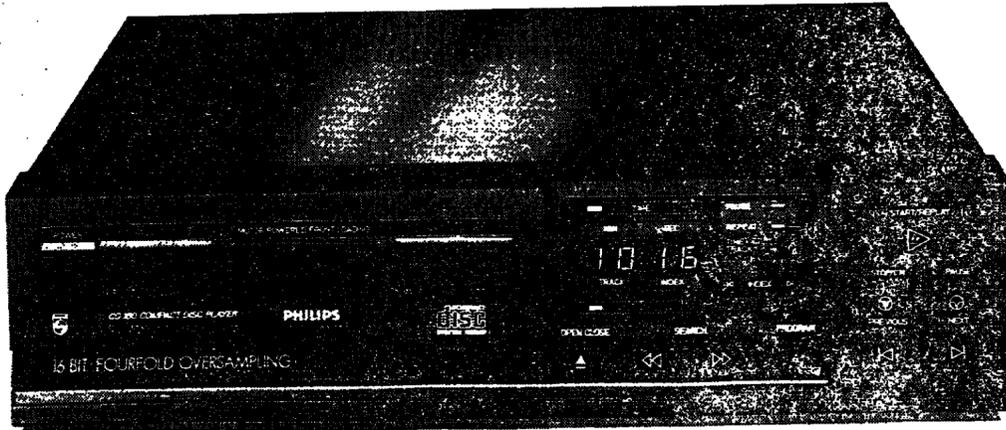
The Black Sash, which is run by white women, says that, despite government assurances to the contrary, parents are often not notified that their children have been detained, and have great difficulty in finding out where they are being held.

It further alleges that juvenile prisoners are thrown together with adults in overcrowded cells and frequently subjected to physical and sexual abuse.

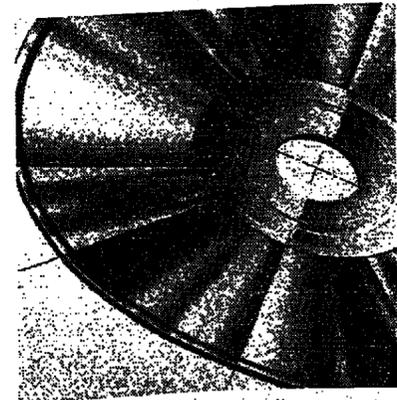
The Government is obliged to table in Parliament the names of people who have been detained for 30 days or longer. The names of nearly 9,300 detainees have been disclosed in this way. But Parliament went into recess in mid-September, and does not sit again before next February.



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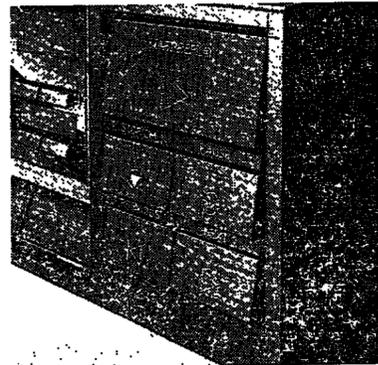


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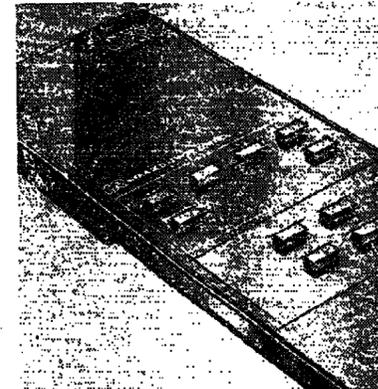
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Aquino pledges inquiry into labour leader's murder as 5,000 protest

From Keith Dalton, Manila

President Aquino of the Philippines yesterday promised a thorough investigation into the killing of Mr Orlando Olalia, the country's most prominent trade union leader, "whatever the cost in political terms", as 5,000 protesters marched to military headquarters accusing supporters of the Defence Minister, Mr Juan Fonce Enrie, of the murder.

The KMU blamed an "ultra-right faction" in the Aquino Government for the murders and, in a statement, called on the people to "work for the ouster of rightists in the Aquino regime led by Defence Minister Enrie and other coup plotters who concocted the murder to terrorize the public".

Mrs Aquino, reading from a prepared statement, said: "Every resource and power of my Government will be brought to bear in bringing the perpetrators of Olalia's murder to justice."

"We shall pursue this investigation wherever it leads, and mete out swift and unequivocal justice whatever the cost in political terms."

Mrs Aquino said she was "horrified and outraged" by the murders, but refused to answer questions.

A general strike, possibly on Monday, will be joined by the 1.5 million-strong Bayan organization whose members include students, labour, professional and religious groups.

Reacting to the killings, the communist-dominated National Democratic Front called off a scheduled meeting later in the day with Government negotiators on a planned ceasefire to end the 17-year insurgency.

The Front, in a statement, blamed the murders on a "militarist clique" in the eight-month-old Government and said it wished to reassess its position on the talks which began on August 5.

The prospects for peace were becoming "less and less possible" because of differences within the Government and its failure to provide guarantees on safety to the rebel negotiators, it said.

Two days before he died, Mr Olalia said the two organizations which he led, the KMU — the most militant

and largest trade union federation — and the People's Party — the country's biggest left-wing party — would organize a national strike if a rumoured military coup by officers loyal to Mr Enrie took place.

The KMU blamed an "ultra-right faction" in the Aquino Government for the murders and, in a statement, called on the people to "work for the ouster of rightists in the Aquino regime led by Defence Minister Enrie and other coup plotters who concocted the murder to terrorize the public".

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Mr Crispin Beltran, of Bayan: strike plans.



President Castro of Cuba greeting Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister of Spain, during arrival ceremonies for the visiting Spanish premier in Havana on Thursday.

Asset raid angers Russians

From Michael Blayton, Washington

In a bizarre development that seems calculated to anger the Russians and lead to prompt retaliation, a Californian lawyer and two US federal marshals searched into the home of the *Forrestia* correspondent in Washington on Tuesday and seized his typewriter.

This was the first step in their effort to collect \$413,000 (approximately £291,000) in Soviet assets in the US to pay for a libel judgement won last month by a Californian businessman against the Soviet Union.

The marshals said they would return yesterday with a truck to remove the rest of his possessions.

Mr Jerry Kroll, the lawyer, called the seizure a "symbolic victory" in the attempt by his client, Mr Raphael Gregorian, to gain redress for an article in *Forrestia* in 1984.

Mr Gregorian claimed that he lost a \$10 million (approximately £7 million) export-import business because the

article, accusing him of "contraband operations" and of selling outdated medical equipment, led to the closure of his Moscow office.

The Soviet Government did not respond to the libel suit, which Mr Gregorian won by default. A Los Angeles court has now been asked to seize funds kept in US banks by a Soviet bank. Mr Kroll said after the confiscation that the Soviet Embassy was now willing to discuss the case.

Mr Gregorian also complained about the plethora of grand-sounding declarations associated with SAARC. He insisted that to launch further into a restatement of the basic aims of the organization in another Bangalore Declaration will be "to devalue the currency of SAARC

summitry", adding that historians "delving through the referential plethora" may be faced with the basic question: What was SAARC? "Repetition alone may lead them to the answer that it was nothing," he said.

The meeting in Bangalore, the garden city of India, is being held under the threat of a serious crisis in relations between India and Pakistan, which has culminated in massive troop movements by India on the border.

Pakistan officials have said privately that a quarter of a million Indian troops are involved in exercises close to the international frontier, and Mr Abdus Sattar, the Pakistani Foreign Secretary, told a press conference yesterday: "When you hear the quantum of troops involved you will see that it cannot but generate a sense of unease."

Mr Sattar also indicated that India was in breach of an agreement to notify Pakistan of any major exercises, although he said he had been assured that India would fulfil the unwritten understanding to do so.

Mr Sattar insisted, however, that no shadow was being cast on the proceedings by Indo-Pakistan relations, and that there were good expectations from the brief talks that the two prime ministers, Mr Rajiv Gandhi and Mr M. K. Junejo, have over the weekend.

The SAARC conference is expected to end with the establishment of a permanent secretariat based in Nepal, and with a Bangladeshi Secretary-General, Mr Abul Ahsan, the present Ambassador to Pakistan. There will be three directors under him.

Sri Lanka attacks slow progress on terror policy

From Michael Hamlyn, Bangalore

A stinging attack on the failure of the South Asian nations to agree on what constitutes terrorism, and an even more surprising assault on its comfortable procedural assumptions, have come from the Sri Lankan delegation at the seven-nation meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC).

The meeting, which will culminate in a summit gathering as heads of state and government arrive here today, has been shaken by Sri Lankan vehemence on terrorism. Mr W. T. Jayasinghe, the Foreign Secretary, told his colleagues that he felt bound to "stress our disappointment" at the work of an expert group on terrorism, set up at Sri Lanka's insistence at the first SAARC summit in Bangladesh a year ago.

"My delegation views with regret the lack of progress," he said, "on finalizing a list of offences which are to be regarded as terrorist, and which for the purposes of extradition are to be regarded as political."

Mr Jayasinghe added that a failure to agree on terrorism would be the first instance when the collective spirit of SAARC was tested and found wanting. "It will be a bad precedent and a blow, a grievous one at that, to SAARC'S prospects elsewhere," he said.

Mr Jayasinghe also complained about the plethora of grand-sounding declarations associated with SAARC. He insisted that to launch further into a restatement of the basic aims of the organization in another Bangalore Declaration will be "to devalue the currency of SAARC

summitry", adding that historians "delving through the referential plethora" may be faced with the basic question: What was SAARC? "Repetition alone may lead them to the answer that it was nothing," he said.

The meeting in Bangalore, the garden city of India, is being held under the threat of a serious crisis in relations between India and Pakistan, which has culminated in massive troop movements by India on the border.

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NZ envoy criticizes Lange policy

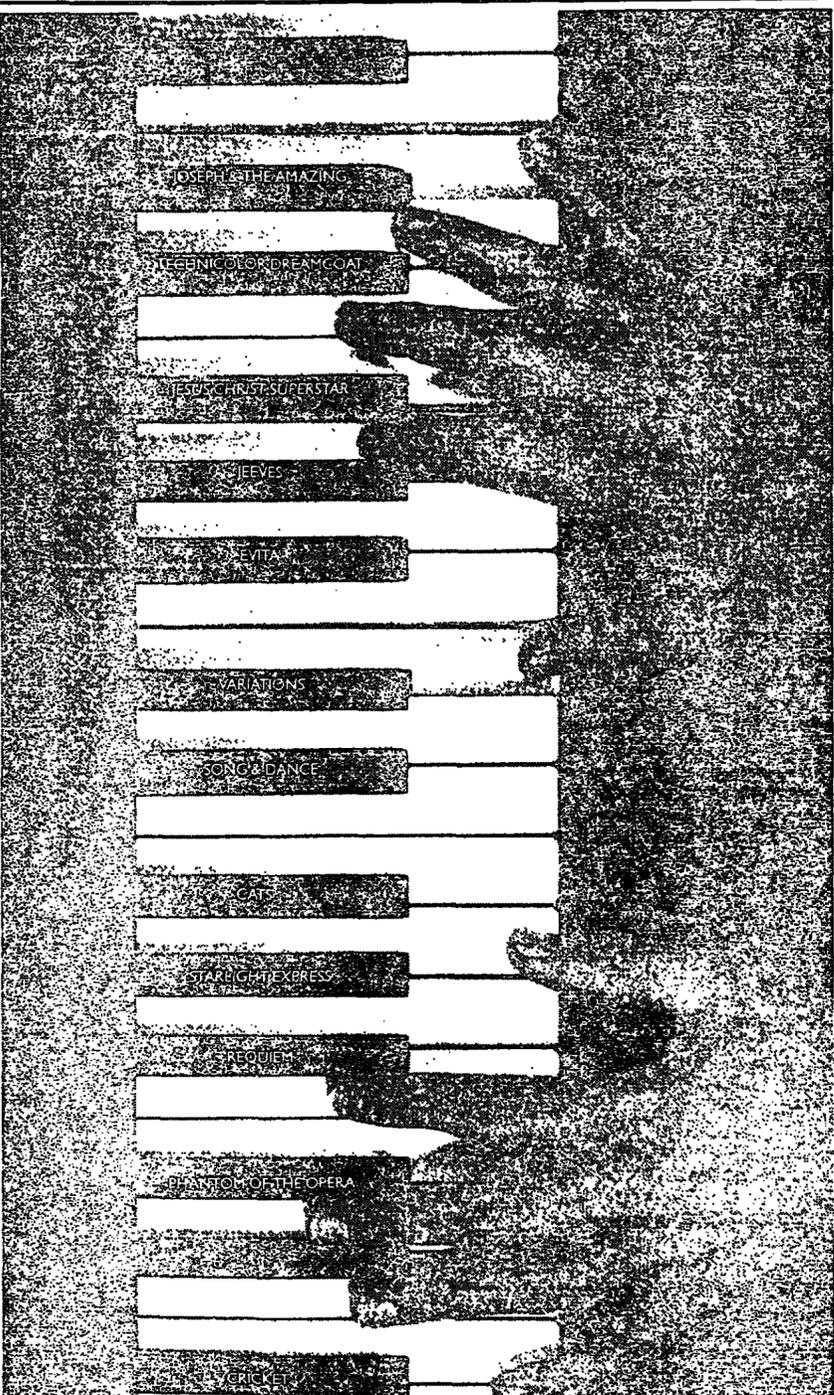
From Richard Long, Wellington

The New Zealand Government was placed in an embarrassing position over its anti-nuclear policy yesterday, when its Ambassador to Washington, Sir Wallace Rowling, described opposition to nuclear-propelled ships

as "anachronistic". The remark stunned Cabinet ministers, but the Prime Minister, Mr David Lange would make only a terse, two-sentence comment: "Sir Wallace was expressing a personal view on nuclear power as a

technology. That is not the Government policy and I have no further comment to make on his statement."

The comment was startling coming from Sir Wallace, regarded as the architect of the Cabinet's anti-nuclear policy.



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Seoul MP faces trial for speech

Seoul (Reuters) — South Korean state prosecutors have ordered an opposition member of Parliament to stand trial on charges of violating the national security law in a speech they say was pro-communist.

Mr Yoo Sung-hwan of the New Korea Democratic Party was arrested last month after members of the ruling Democratic Justice Party, shielded by hundreds of police, voted unilaterally to lift his parliamentary immunity.

The prosecutors said Mr Yoo was echoing North Korean propaganda when he told Parliament that Seoul should put more emphasis on uniting the divided peninsula than on anti-communism.

Gunmen 'kill eight' in India

Delhi (Reuters) — Eight people have been killed and 10 wounded in a wave of separatist violence during the past three days in the north-east state of Tripura, the Press Trust of India reported.

It said that in one incident, guerrillas of the Tripura National Volunteers, armed with automatic weapons and knives, raided a village and killed four people.

PM to resign

Honiara, Solomon Islands (Reuters) — The Prime Minister, Sir Peter Kenilorea, has decided to resign next week. The move follows a political row over French aid to repair his home village after cyclone damage.

Dutch bomb

The Hague (Reuters) — Bomb disposal experts safely defused an improvised fire bomb yesterday which had been left in a package outside the headquarters of the Royal Dutch Shell oil company in the city.

Couple shot

Harare (Reuters) — Rebels shot dead a man and his wife at Gwanda, in Zimbabwe's southern Matabeleland province, on Tuesday, police said.

Crew rescued

Azores (Reuters) — A Portuguese fishing boat picked up all but two of the 26 crew of a Greek cargo ship listing in heavy seas 200 miles north-east of the Azores, a Portuguese Navy spokesman said.

Train crash

Belgrade (Reuters) — At least eight people were killed when a train hit a bus at a level crossing in the north-east.

Singer's award

Paris (AFP) — The blind American singer, Ray Charles, has been appointed a commander of arts and literature.

Cheque mate

Hackensack, New Jersey (AP) — Police have arrested a woman accused of writing more than a \$1 million of bad cheques by pretending to be the sister of the late shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis.

Somali congress to reselect Siad Barre

By Nicholas Beeston

Somalia's ruling Socialist Party will reselect President Siad Barre for the country's single-candidate presidential elections when it holds its congress this weekend, diplomats and analysts predict.

But the sources suggest that of greater significance to the future of Somalia will be the appointments and promotions that the aging and ailing leader could make during the congress.

General Siad Barre's 17-year rule nearly came to an end in May when he was severely injured in a car accident and had to be flown in a diabetic comatose state to Saudi Arabia for surgical treatment.

Although diplomats believe he has made a "strong recovery" for a man in his 70s and cite his last public appearance in October at a rally where he stood for 90 minutes, they warn that a bitter succession feud is being fought behind the scenes.

The most likely replacement is the Vice-President, Lieutenant-General Mohamed Ali Samatar who assumed power when General Siad Barre was injured in the crash. He is not of the same clan as the President.

Analysts said there is mounting pressure from the President's immediate family and his clan, the Marehan, for him to draw on their ranks for the top posts in the military and the ruling Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party.

"The problem of clan affiliations has worsened in Somalia over the last few years," said one analyst. "It is a very sensitive issue, but plays an increasingly important role in internal politics."

He predicted that unless the Marehan succeeds in securing key positions in the Government and ensures that the next president is from the clan, there could be a purge under a new leadership.

The clan wants Mr Abdurahman Jama Barre, the President's brother and Foreign Minister, to lead its succession attempt for the presidency.

"The Marehan will try to consolidate its power, but there is a lot of ill-feeling towards it from other Somali clans who believe it has abused its role in the last years," said the analyst.

Experts predict that the US could play a vital role in easing the tension and restoring calm as it has access to naval and air facilities at the port of Berbera.

Rowland in Zimbabwe discussions

From Michael Hartmann, Harare

The chairman of the British-based multi-national company, Lonrho, Mr Roland "Tutty" Rowland, had confidential talks with Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, this week.

Lonrho is taking a pioneering role in reviving the war-shattered economy of the vital "Beira Corridor" through Mozambique, which provides Zimbabwe with its only outlet to the sea independent of South Africa.

Mr Rowland's company has reopened farms along the 200-mile road, rail and oil pipeline route, which is guarded by upwards of 6,000 Zimbabwean troops against the threat of sabotage from the Mozambique Resistance Movement.

The talks, described as "friendly", took place during the course of a southern African tour by the Lonrho chief which took in Lusaka and Maputo. He had talks with President Kaunda in the Zambian capital.

It was suggested in Harare that Lonrho is planning further joint ventures in Zimbabwe on an equal partnership basis with the Zimbabwean Government.

Italian state television reforms Calling time on tear-jerkers

From Peter Nichols, Rome

Television viewers have had an emotional week, with one leading lady announcing from the screen that she was pregnant while another, more popular still, opening her prime-time programme by reading a statement attacking a magazine for alleging that she neglected her ailing mother.

And, just when national emotions were coming to grips with these dramas, the unexpected word came from the top echelons that all this had to stop.

The intriguing point was that both ladies work for RAI, the state network, and not for private television where the star system is more at home. And their disciplining was the first public act after new arrangements made at the top of the hierarchy after months of struggle had brought Signor Enrico Manca, a leading Socialist, to the chairmanship of the corporation. It may mean some fundamental changes in the relationship between public and private television.

What the new chairman had to face from these two ladies was nothing new as far as RAI was concerned. Last year, during a televised show organized for Placido Domingo's efforts to raise funds for earthquake victims in Mexico, the presenter, Pippo Baudo, who is one of RAI's most popular personalities, announced that he was about to marry Katia Ricciarelli, Domingo's co-star in the film version of Verdi's *Otello*.

With this precedent long established, Enrica Bonaccorti confided to her television audi-



Raffaella Carrà, whose TV style is under scrutiny.

ence a fortnight ago that she was pregnant.

Two days later, Raffaella Carrà, RAI's unchallenged, if rather brittle, leading lady, opened proceedings on her Sunday afternoon show with a tearful statement denying that she had neglected her sick mother while attending to the success of her series. She also announced that she would see the weekly publication that had made the allegations.

Telephone calls, said to have been largely in Carrà's favour, punctuated her. But they were not enough to dispel a new wind blowing through the corporation, which first made itself apparent in an article on the front page of *Avanti!*, the Socialist Party newspaper. Signor Manca's predecessor was a Socialist,

but not as vigorous as the new chairman.

The article opened with the chilling statement: "We do not like scandalistic journalism but we like even less the use for personal ends of the public network."

The article bore the signature "FP", which insiders know to be that of Signor Paolo Pillitteri, who is not only the Socialist Party's television expert, but the Prime Minister's brother-in-law.

As soon as the *Avanti!* article appeared, the political element was enlarged because the Christian Democrats came out in her favour. But she fell from the clouds when she was shown the official response from RAI, which this time took the side of her critics.

Performers were forbidden to use the cameras and microphones "for statements and comments totally outside their roles".

The question of Carrà's mother or Bonaccorti's baby is what worried the general public. The deeper issue is whether the Socialists mean to insist that the corporation drop its system of cultivating personalities and leave television star wars to the private network.

In the field of popular entertainment, RAI's answer to the private networks was to rise to meet the challenge. In the field of current affairs they enjoyed a comfortable lead provided by long experience. But the consequences of the controversy over mother and the baby may be that the Socialists will make an early start with their attempt at imposing more clearly a difference in functions rather than straight competition between the two networks.

At the end of yearish

150

November 15-21

SATURDAY

A weekly guide to leisure, entertainment and the arts

At the fag end of the peer show

It is late, very late, and Eric Morley is sweating furiously. He is fumbling with a box of photographs of Miss World, also known as Miss Trinidad and Tobago, also known as Giselle Jeanne-Marie Laronde, secretary. She sits on his right hand, signing the back of each picture and adding a couple of kisses with a mechanical flourish. Each signed shot goes for a fiver in aid of one of the endless children's charities patronized by Julia Morley, who sits on Eric's left, still being exhaustingly wonderful after three weeks of uninterrupted hyping.

It is the fag-end of the proceedings in the London Hilton Ballroom and Eric is clearly drooping, so I go straight in with the tough question. I ask when the Miss World show will move to America.

"Yes, well, we are talking about that...it is something we have to consider...there are television and merchandising possibilities...but not just at this moment." He looks pleadingly at me; Miss T'n'T drums her fingers waiting for the next picture to sign.

The fact is that Miss World Group plc (turnover £1.3 million, pretax profits £555,000) has a problem - 36 years down the line its primary asset is an astonishingly dated TV show based in the wrong country. Everything about the operation - from Eric's greased-back hair to the bump and grind poses adopted by the girls, reeks of a windy day on Southend Pier in 1955. But it still pulls in big television money from a worldwide audience put at 700 million - it just happens to be in the wrong time zone for US television. For the big bucks, Eric should be in Las Vegas.

But it is - like so many other faded, ridiculous things - a British institution. Annually 70-odd women teeter into London and spend two weeks bringing back the days when men were happily, ineffectually lecherous and girls giggled. They even go to the Houses of Parliament to talk to a group of MPs led by Neville Trotter.

Actually, "talk" is something of an exaggeration. The

Bryan Appleyard finds the Miss World contest tottering along on high heels and wrapped in the coyness of an era otherwise forgotten

girls do not converse as such - they simply say how wonderful everything is, whatever you say to them first. During drinks before lunch at the House, Michael Fallon (C Dartington) had established from Miss Norway that everything was indeed wonderful and both had taken to staring blankly at the waitress. Meanwhile David Bevan (C Yardley) was lurching about plucking bits of paper from his pockets. He had lost every one of the girls he was supposed to be looking after.

"You haven't seen Miss American Virgin Islands, have you?" he pleaded. Meanwhile Miss Denmark, a joint favourite who was burdened with the responsibility of the bets placed by the entire tabloid press corps, was grinning inanely. I asked her what all this meant to her, gesturing vaguely at Fagin and Barry's cradle of democracy.

"Ooooh," she murmured, staring seductively at a million, "nothing." After the first couple of events you give up on the girls. Fallon assured me that Miss Mauritius had unexpected depths and Marcus Fox (C Shipley) was convinced that Miss United States was worth persevering with. But generally it is best just to regard them as mobile wallpaper which keeps cluttering up perfectly decent drinks parties.

The week had started at the Hilton Ballroom when all 77 appeared for the first time in swimwear - a Fifties knee-trembling term if ever there was one. In fact they sauntered in among the cameras wearing leotards by Top Shop - the competition sponsors. Sec-

urity was tight. Bookies were not allowed - I didn't notice - the tabloid photographers acted as spies for them so odds were being circulated within minutes of the girls appearing.

Pictures were taken and then the girls stalked over to tables where they sat whispering to each other. Chaperones, some of whom wore menacing-looking boiler suits, accompanied them. The press were astonishingly supine, asking Julia if they could just have a quick word with Miss New Zealand or whoever. Mrs Morley agreed, always with the proviso that "somebody is listening" - this meant a chaperone was thought-policing the quotes.

Julia herself broke off from stopping Miss Yugoslavia vanishing into an ante-room with somebody who claimed to be a radio reporter to explain her corporate plan. She, it transpired, had travelled 500,000 miles in the last year persuading participating countries to turn the whole shooting match into a trade fair. Girls will arrive complete with industrial products, which will be displayed in a vast marquee in Hyde Park. She reckoned this will start in two years - always assuming Eric hasn't moved them all to Las Vegas.

She managed to say everything in a tone of abject pleading. This became positively imploring when she got on to the subject of the rigorously moral and hyper-scientific nature of the judging process.

"The personality is terribly important," she exhorted, "you may think a girl looks stunning and then you speak to her and suddenly it's all gone." So far this seemed to have been true of all the girls.

Presumably they are programmed to avoid scandal - or at least uncontrolled scandal. The odd tabloid flare-up - usually involving drugs, sex

Like many other faded, ridiculous things this contest is a British institution

or inappropriate swimwear - is a sort of annual ritual which can do Miss World Group plc nothing but good. This year two reporters from a Sunday tabloid had been unmasked at the girls' hotel - he had been disguised as a bellboy and she as a chambermaid.

"We had their photographs," murmured Julia mysteriously.

After the super-soft porn of the Hilton we moved to Top Shop at Oxford Circus. It had opened up on Sunday to allow everybody to buy clothes with a 40 per cent discount. Store executives appeared looking grotesque in their best groovy clothes and awkwardly making gruff, masculine jokes.

But, after everybody had been hyped up by corporate pep talks about "the world's press and the most beautiful girls in the world", the contestants in their street clothes were a let-down. They looked rather like, well, average Top Shop customers. The world's press was beginning to look, well, drunk.

On the night the Hilton was full of Burton Group employees who had all won some kind of office competition to stay overnight and have a box at the Albert Hall for the show. Within minutes of hitting the white wine and canapés in the boxes they were making the press corps look sober. Yet another pep talk had been given at pre-show drinks by Sir Ralph Halpern, group chairman and a member of the judging panel. He told his staff to roar and clap furiously when he was introduced on television. They did so and 15 million potential Top Shop customers were subliminally convinced that here was a helluva guy, life and soul of the party etc.

The stage set had a bank of



The world according to the Morleys: high heeled, carefully wrapped and labelled with country of origin, they also serve who only stand to lose

computers for the judges and a Chinoiserie backdrop. It looked like a cross between the Barclays de Zoete Wedd dealing room and the mantelpiece of an Edwardian room. The RAI was half empty and, without the close-ups and zooms of the cameras, the show was a desultory affair for the real audience. In the vast space you suddenly became aware of what an absurd outfit swimsuit and high heels is. It draws attention to the knees.

Now they had to dance not to Julia's tune but to that of men behind the cameras who waved luminous green sticks at them indicating "Forward... Stop... Get Off". During the chat, Den-

mark blew it by forgetting her life-long ambition while Austria wanted to write a book... any book.

The Coronation Ball was like something out of Hieronymus Bosch. Copy phones over, the backs were slaving over the girls - they had clearly been aroused by Miss USA's public statement of how impressed she was by the British press. Top Shop employees were bitching furiously about Debenhams, the latest Burton Group acquisition. A photographer estimated the result had cost him £2,000 in missed winnings.

But with Eric looking clinically dead and Julia's over-

drive having finally seized into a manic grin, the night was Halpern's. He chatted to a succession of lovelies, one hand just stid into the jacket pocket with the thumb projecting, the body language of the man with the money. Didn't he think that the image of this thing was a bit dated for Top Shop customers?

"Yes, it is old-fashioned. But these youngsters - with Chernobyl and Aids they haven't really got a future - so

What with Chernobyl and Aids, youngsters really do not have any future

this is a bit of nostalgia for them.

Winning hadn't exactly swept the mechanised Miss T'n'T off her feet. She was just out there doing the business for Julia. For the truth was that nothing much had happened. The Southend Pier show had just got too big for its high heels, some shopkeepers had had too much to drink and 76 girls had come second.

"Nobody wants this stuff any more", said one poor hanger-on. "It is all wet T-shirts or topless shows they want nowadays."

And he was right. For, try as they will with their gruff, backslapping jokes, nobody could make this thing sexy. Except Miss Belghum, and she just kept laughing her head off.

Next morning, as the Top Shop crowd lurches bleary-eyed up to the Roof Restaurant for breakfast, the shares of Miss World Group pic fell 5p.

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And the winner is... Julia Morley with Miss T'n'T

Taste of festive things to come: tips for the tops in Christmas pudding and cake, page 13

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Edited by Shona Crawford Poole

TRAVEL 1

Survival of the prettiest

Alan Ponsford rediscovers the unspoilt island beauty of Grenada, worlds apart from its bustling neighbour, Barbados

In just 24 hours I was reassured. My favourite tropical island was - outwardly, anyway - little-scarred by nearly 10 years of repressive, often vicious, government, clearly not ravaged by the violence of its recent past.

The emerald, closely clad mountains remain unblemished. High-rise has not come. The narrow, steep streets of St George's, the capital and only sizeable town, retain a plain, unspoilt grace and bustle, making few concessions to tourism, disclosing only a light sprinkling of white faces, except for the few hours when a cruise ship is in. There has never been the money for developers and improvers to disfigure the blend of gravity and gaiety concocted by the solemn 19th-century warehouses and churches and the neat, brightly-roofed houses hanging on the precipitous hillsides that rim the prettiest harbour in the Caribbean.

The same grubby, inter-island schooners rub themselves against the quay encircling the Carenage, while a hundred smart yachts ride on the inner harbour and in a dozen sheltering coves, starting, finishing or just contemplating idyllic wanderings through the near-deserted Grenadines, which

are dotted in a crooked line 70 miles north to St Vincent.

It was in less tangible respects that differences were to be sensed. In 1980, when I had last visited in the depths of the island's despair, it had been saddening to find the naturally ebullient Grenadians cowed by the tyranny of Maurice Bishop's People's Revolutionary Government. Old friends glanced fearfully over their shoulders as they whispered to you, Marxist slogans and barbed wire abounded.

The Cubans' influence was pervasive. Out at Point Salines, just south of St George's, they were building a big new airfield, threatening to become another thorn pricking America's under-belly.

It was the murder of Bishop in October 1983, and the threat of an even more sinister regime, that brought the United States "intervention" as it is determinedly called locally - never the invasion or occupation. The Grenadians' consequent hero-worship of the Americans in general and President Reagan in particular is matched only by their puzzled disappointment that Britain did not initiate, or at least support, their deliverance. I had feared it might be reflected in their attitudes to British visitors. But I should have known better.

Nevertheless, Uncle Sam's dollar aid will do wonders for long-neglected services: roads, drainage, power, hospitals, education. A pitance has been found to promote the redevelopment of tourism,

provided it is up-market, controlled and unpoliticized. Not for them the way of some more northerly West Atlantic resorts where foreigners swamp local life, culture, streets and beaches, breeding avarice and sourness in occasional people.

Links are strong with neighbouring Barbados. That rolling, sugar-coated island has long served as a gentle introduction and stepping stone to the more rugged, luxuriant ones. Increasingly it will pass on to Grenada those experienced, affluent travellers for whom Barbados's St James coast luxury hotels still provide high standards but who have come to resent the sprawl of cheap guesthouses, self-catering apartments and mini-markets.



In Grenada you will find no Woolworth's, no McDonald's or Kentucky Fried Chicken, less commercialization, urbanization and industrialization, little crime and virtually no drugs problem. On the other hand, Grenada does not offer many man-made attractions and activities away from the hotels.

But its natural beauties are stunning, whether in the charm of St George's or the sublimity of lakes and waterfalls embraced by high mountains, or in long, distant beaches and deep, fiord-like bays which once hid pirate ships. Everywhere the prolific greenery yields cocoa, nutmeg, ginger, allspice, cloves, cinnamon, turmeric, bay leaves, so closely-packed it seems the word "lush" was invented for the "Isle of Spice".

Though it is now getting its own direct international air services - the Americans

WEATHER EYE

Daytime temperature - usually low to mid 80s. Humidity sometimes uncomfortably high, but moderated by sea breezes. Rainfall - dry season from December to May gives sunny mornings and occasional heavy showers (about one day in three) in the late afternoon.

finished the new airport - Grenada is hardly likely to be overrun. It has scarcely more than 400 guestrooms and nearly half of those are in one hotel being reopened on the miles-long Grand Anse beach after a robust occupation by the liberating army.

Nearby, the 30 bungalows of the elegant Spice Island Inn stand among the palms right on the pale coral sand. The inn is unfenced, an eloquent comment on the local folk whose beach this is. Here town and village people bring their children, ample ladies proffer little straw baskets of nutmeg and cloves, reputations are made and lost in cricket matches at the water's edge.

For the rest, the hotels are intimately small - nine, 10, 16, 20 rooms, mostly cottages, suites, bungalows, with a central restaurant and bar area. Many are tucked away in secluded, sandy coves or - like the aptly-named Secret Harbour, where I stayed - quiet bays, providing relaxed, superb service and privacy.

New, bigger ones will triple accommodation in the next few years. But they will have to conform to the convention of building no higher than a coconut palm which, despite evidence to the contrary, is deemed to stop growing at three storeys.

Being whisked smoothly and rapidly to his hotel is one of the first and happiest of surprises to greet the returning visitor. While they were at it the Americans slapped down a spanking new highway into town. Everyone is delighted - except the taxi-drivers. They used to bump us right over the top of the island at great length and expense from the former, distant airstrip.

Elsewhere, roads untouched for years have not yet been so lucky. When I made the beautiful but tortuous 25-mile drive up the western shore it seemed the entire adult population, male and female, was patching and filling craters like shell-holes.

As they moved aside they peered gravely at this rare, white stranger. But a greeting or wave from me always brought answering smiles and many a "Good day to you". Their dismal clothes and the humility of the humble-down villages were illuminated every few miles by dashes of laughing schoolchildren, dressed immaculately in shining white blouses or shirts and navy blue skirts or trousers.

This morning's expedition, tracing the coasts of the parishes of Saints George, John and Mark to return over the heights of St Andrew in the

afternoon, offers a special luncheon treat on a hilltop in St Patrick's. Here, at her home on a former plantation, Mrs Betty Mascott, a lady of mature years and Somerset ancestry, serves some of the best of local creole food. I discovered spiced pumpkin soup, pork with casareep (a local preservative), christophines, callaloo (a kind of spinach), plantains and all sorts of vegetables and seasonings, rounded off with guavas and coconut ice-cream. Such delicious West Indian fare is not easy to find on many of the other islands. In Grenada it is a recognized attraction.

I had hoped to relive a lunch I recalled beneath a great sapodilla tree in the garden of the Ross Point Inn, renowned for its creole cooking. Alas, it had become the American embassy.

However, there was compensation to be found at Mama's. Here is a truly formidable cook, who lays before you simultaneously 15 dishes that include such delicacies as stewed maimou (opossum) and tatau (armadillo) - both rich and gamey.

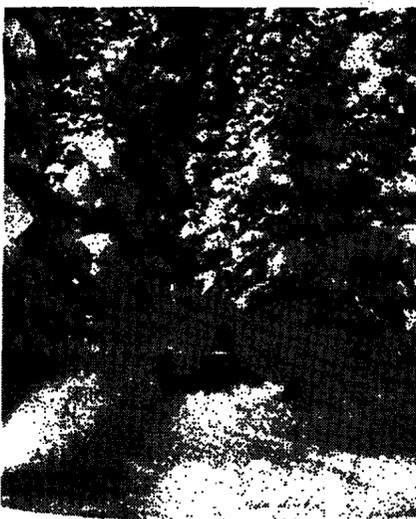
As I drove home I picked up a passenger, as is the local practice. He looked like Louis Armstrong wearing my gardening clothes. But he was wise and refreshingly articulate in the English language, as are so many humble people in Grenada. He concluded his account of his island's virtues with: "God put it here with his own hands".

I was inclined to believe him. a day during the winter season (December 15-April 15), but packages, offered by a number of British tour operators, bring prices down sharply. These examples include airfare, room, breakfast and one main meal: "Tradewinds" (01-734 1260) seven nights at Spice Island Inn in season: £1,136 (14 nights £1,625), out-of-season: £798 and £1,098; Kuoni's six nights at the Calibash in season: £804 (£847 for an extra week), out of season: £644 (extra week £266). Kuoni (0306 885044).

TRAVEL NOTES

There are two through air services (five flights a week) to Grenada from London, both requiring a change of aircraft - at Barbados with Caribbean Airways and at Trinidad with BWIA. British Airways makes a same-day connection with the local airline, LIAT, at Barbados most days. Booked direct, first-class hotels in Grenada charge upwards of US\$100 per person

Colorado powder power on and off the pistes



Snow spray: deep and crisp and downhill in Colorado

Just about the first thing I saw on the slopes at Vail was a fellow - in stars-and-stripes dungarees playing a trombone very noisily while executing a series of fast turns down a steepish blue run. The trombone, of course, requires the use of both hands, yet somehow he contrived to make what he was doing look perfectly natural.

A few days later, grabbing a final run, I hopped on to a deserted lift. Just it was about to ascend, a figure leapt on beside me, pulling down the clear plastic canopy that keeps out the draughts. That's odd, I thought, there isn't a breath of wind.

"Hi," the voice behind the expensive Bollé goggles said cheerfully. "How're you today? Mind if I smoke some of this?" And from within his Head suit he produced a tiny pipe, which he filled with a greenish herbal substance from a plastic bag. He lit the pipe, drew deeply and exhaled, filling the canopy with a pungent sweetness.

"You a visitor?" he asked, before refilling his lungs. "I'm a realtor here in town. Took two and one-half million dollars of business this morning. Now I'm going up to get high and ski."

Colorado often lives up to its caricature: rich up to its caricature, the real hippies with snow on their boots and up their noses, John Denver-like policemen driving Saab prow cars. Take the day our guide suddenly pulled us to a halt and asked: "You guys want to try some adventure skiing?" Barely pausing to register the party's wary signals of assent, he headed forth off the piste, through a gap in the foliage and into a hell of kidney-wrenching switch-backs, branches arched garroting height and tree roots booby-trapping a trail not much wider than a man's shoulders.

It might have been five minutes or it might have been an hour later that the final bump pitched us back out on to the piste, white-faced and whispering. "That," our guide said, "was where the kids go to smoke their dope. They figure they won't get disturbed."

Let's not get the wrong idea, it must be said that Vail is in general a temple of civilization, the village successfully imitating the Austrian ambience and pleasantly free of

Over the top of the Vail Mountain, far from the cosmopolitan bustle, Richard Williams skis down the glinting crystals of Shangri-La

Dallas-style ostentation. About 100 miles east of Denver, it was founded in 1962 by a couple of developers who had trained nearby during the Second World War; the resort's longest run is known as Riva Ridge, in memory of the men of the 10th Mountain Patrol who gave their lives in the Apennines.

Most of Vail's other runs bear names - Timberline Catwalk, Whiskey Jack, Mill Creek Road - that might have been borrowed from the songs of Bruce Springsteen. These are on the front face of the mountain, amply served by a superb lift system.

It is on the back bowls, however, that Vail's legend is based. Here, over the top of the ridge on the mountain's south face, in a yet-to-be-developed tract of the White River National Forest, is where the legendary Colorado powder can be experienced in setting a world away from the cosmopolitan bustle of the north side.

No piste machine grooms these bowls. Two of them, Sun Up and Sun Down, are served by the only lift on the whole south face, a double chair which carries skiers from a picturesque gully up to the summit at 11,250 feet.

The real adventure, though, is a trip to the adjacent China Bowl, which gets its name from a long rock wall that tapers along the ridge, brooding over a silent vastness. Accessible only via a Sno-Cat which leaves hourly, carrying a couple of mountain guides and six or eight customers at \$10 a head, China Bowl offers a couple of alternative ways of descending.

Either they can take a short, sharp and exhilarating route down the fall line of the steep West Wall, or they can opt for a longer, gentler and extraordinarily beautiful run called Shangri-La, which meanders through copes of cedar, fir, aspen and pine, down to the rendezvous from which the waiting Sno-Cat makes its juddering return ascent.

The day we cruised down Shangri-La, slaloming through the trees with varying degrees of expertise but sharing a

common euphoria, the sun was glinting off the crystals of what the locals call "corn crust", spring snow that has melted and refrozen overnight. At the bottom our guide, Jean Richmond, reminded us that while we might see snow simply in terms of powder and slush, the Eskimos - to whom it is a matter of life and death - have more than 100 names for the various types.

Jean Richmond, who has spent 13 winters on Vail Mountain, teaches in fluent Spanish, German, and Italian, and gets by with Brazilians

TRAVEL NOTES

I travelled as a guest of Venice Simplon-Orient-Express. The American Dream's Ski USA brochure offers seven nights room and breakfast at The Lodge, including flights from London, from £259 (4 Station Parade, High Street North, London E8; 01-470 1181).

ACAPULCO. 12 NIGHTS. FROM £499. Acapulco as in Mexico? The very same. Also Cozumel, the largest of the Mexican Caribbean Islands: 12 Nights, £525. Prices include return airfare, hotel accommodation and transfers. Ask your Travel Agent. Or ring us on (0293) 776979. CONTINENTAL AIRLINES TOURS

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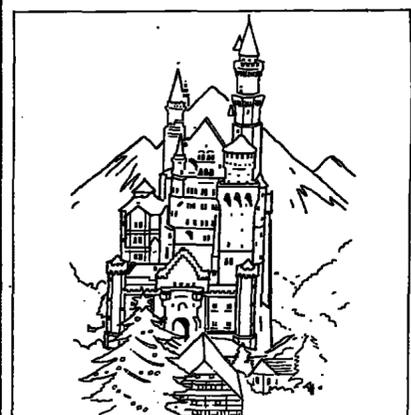
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Winter is welcomed in the mountains, too, where well-groomed slopes, neatly swept paths, modern ski lifts and hundreds of miles of cross-country ski tracks await the visitor. The air is clear and fresh, and the hospitality is open, honest and traditional - the friendliest place for a winter holiday.

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TRAVEL 2

Grandeur and gardens of grace

Petworth House may be majestic, but not far off is Little Thakeham, a more homely jewel

The more popular an exhibition is, the less likely I am to see it. It is not that I would be bored by Picasso's sketchbooks or the Mary Rose. It is the likelihood of being swept past the exhibits in a chattering tide of humanity that adds more places and pictures to my list of pleasures put off.



A piece of history for sale: Little Thakeham (left) and (above) builder Edward Blackburn's daughters photographed outside the house

"Proud Duke" for his excessive bounties, lavished his wife's fortune on rebuilding the house after she came of age in 1688. Now National Trust members look from its windows over hills and woods designed by Capability Brown before taking tea in the hall of the servants' block.

one to see so much of it better. The cameraman's lighting provides finer views of the paintings and the rooms can be seen without crowds. Being there is for seeing the minutiae of a child bride's wedding slippers and being dwarfed by a garden urn.

house and a second house, designed by Lutyns, was begun. The current owners are Tim and Pauline Ratcliff, who run it as an hotel. Their records include photographs of Edward Blackburn's daughters, wearing big bobble tammy hats riding in a carriage past the unfinished Lutyns house.

and detail undisturbed, and to wander the oh-so-English garden paths and pergolas in the style of Gertrude Jekyll. Little Thakeham is up for sale, and its future as an hotel uncertain. But the Ratcliffs will be carrying on at least until the New Year.

TRAVEL NOTES

Little Thakeham, Merrywood Lane, Storrington, West Sussex (09058 4416) is a partner in the Price of Britain consortium. A stay in one of its eight suites costs £80 per night per couple with breakfast. Dinner is £19.50 each plus VAT.

OUT AND ABOUT

OUTINGS

DISCOVERING MAMMALS: The Natural History Museum's latest permanent exhibition explores the relationship between mammals and their environments with emphasis placed on the role of conservation.



Relatively different: a life-size model of a moeritherium, the elephant's oldest ancestor, at the Natural History Museum

ROBOTS AND AUTOMATA: Fascinating exhibition of mechanical toys made between 1850-1950, robots of all kind, some of which visitors may operate, and a delightful collection of automata.

ART EVENT DAY: A number of artists showing their work and demonstrating watercolour and printmaking techniques. Also talks relating to the cathedral scene of music recitals.

YORK CRAFT FAIR: Over 50 stalls showing and selling traditional craft items and many demonstrations of craft skills and techniques.

Competition in various categories judged this morning - winners on display this afternoon. Related society stands.

TRAVEL NEWS

Riviera touch

Air fares to the French Riviera this winter are being brought down with the launch of a series of charter flights to Nice by Euro Express. Two flights a week are being operated from Gatwick by British Island Airways, starting on December 19, and running through to the end of April.

days. Car hire can be arranged from £105 for three days, including tax. Information: 0293 775555.

Sailing with the stars The Norwegian-owned Royal Viking Line has recruited a heavyweight team of guest lecturers for its 1987 cruise programme.

service between Gatwick and Amsterdam with a half-price offer on basic fares. Business-class now costs £85 return instead of the normal £170.

year's level of \$99 (£70). Ameripass tickets are obtainable through travel agents or direct from Greyhound (01-839 5591).

CROMFORD Derbyshire Distance: 8 miles This walk starts in one of the cradles of the Industrial Revolution: Richard Arkwright's Cromford, where water-powered factory cotton-spinning began in 1771.



houses and a spacious porch. There is a choice of paths for lunch, but check on a Sunday. Leave the town by a precipitous lane north-west from the Market Place.

Large advertisement for Ireland Weekends from £122, featuring a decorative border and text about weekend breaks in Ireland.

HOLIDAYS & VILLAS

Advertisement for Iberia flights, featuring the Iberia logo and text about holiday packages to Spain.

Advertisement for Bahamas holidays, titled 'ADVENTUROUS? WILD LIFE LOVERS? CULTURE VILUTES? ARMCHAIR DREAMERS'.

Advertisement for Bahamas holidays, titled 'It's Better In The Bahamas' with a price of £466.

Advertisement for Trailfinders, titled 'IT'S ALL AT TRAILFINDERS'.

Advertisement for Santos Specials, titled 'SPEEDWING'S SANTOS SPECIALS'.

Advertisement for Canary & Madeira, titled 'SELF-CATERING CANARY & MADEIRA'.

Advertisement for France, titled 'SELF-CATERING FRANCE'.

Advertisement for Switzerland, titled 'SELF-CATERING SWITZERLAND'.

Advertisement for New Low Fares, titled 'NEW LOW FARES WORLDWIDE'.

Advertisement for Up & Away, titled 'UP & AWAY'.

Advertisement for Lowest Fares, titled 'LOWEST FARES'.

Advertisement for Escapades, titled 'Escapades'.

Advertisement for French Villa Centre, titled 'French Villa Centre'.

Advertisement for India Thailand, titled 'INDIA THAILAND'.

Advertisement for Explore, titled 'EXPLORE'.

Advertisement for Australia, titled 'AUSTRALIA'.

Advertisement for Discounted Fares, titled 'DISCOUNTED FARES'.

Advertisement for Xmas Specials, titled 'XMAS SPECIALS'.

Advertisement for General, titled 'GENERAL'.

Advertisement for Self-Catering Greece, titled 'SELF-CATERING GREECE'.

Advertisement for Self-Catering Italy, titled 'SELF-CATERING ITALY'.

Advertisement for Self-Catering Portugal, titled 'SELF-CATERING PORTUGAL'.

Advertisement for HOLLAND, titled 'HOLLAND'.

Advertisement for MALAGA, CANARIES, etc., titled 'MALAGA, CANARIES, etc.'.

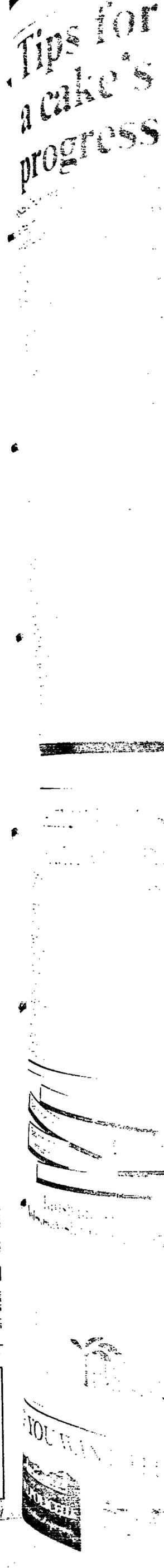
Advertisement for FLIGHTS OF FANTASY, titled 'FLIGHTS OF FANTASY'.

Advertisement for Self-Catering Spain, titled 'SELF-CATERING SPAIN'.

Advertisement for Self-Catering Spain, titled 'SELF-CATERING SPAIN'.

Advertisement for Self-Catering Spain, titled 'SELF-CATERING SPAIN'.

Advertisement for U.K. HOLIDAYS, titled 'U.K. HOLIDAYS'.



Handwritten text at the bottom of the page: 'صدا به الراجحي'

THE TIMES COOK

DRINK

Tips for a cake's progress

Shona Crawford Poole makes a gift of the best - and healthiest - Christmas pudding, and a rich traditional cake

If I offered you a low fat, high fibre, cholesterol free, low salt, vitamin packed and mineral rich Christmas pudding, you might well ask whether you couldn't forget about all that for one day of the year. But if I offered you a bit of the best Christmas pudding I have ever tasted, your interest would perk up, would it not? And if I admit that the super pudding is that very same healthy pudding, you may want to try the recipe.

Looking at some of the current recipes for trendy healthy versions of traditional Christmas fare, I wonder if future food historians will smile over our efforts.

The dishes which have become fixed in Christmas tradition are, almost without exception, festive versions of what was once everyday fare. Shortbread, which calls for the finest white flour and prodigious quantities of fresh butter, is quite simply the special occasion version of oatcakes made with oats and a little fat. Likewise, Christmas pudding is a richly fancy rendering of spotted dick and the tribe of plainer steamed puddings which our ancestors used as central heating.

Now we worry about the wisdom of using the white flour and dairy fats our forebears enjoyed as an occasional luxury.

Sharp-eyed followers of this column will find that my fatless pudding formula has changed little in this, its fourth successful year. It makes a pudding that looks and smells as richly fruity as any traditional recipe. It keeps just as well, too. The cake recipe is conventional because I have not found a fatless recipe that makes a good cake.

- CHRISTMAS PUDDING Serves eight to ten 225g (8oz) stoned muscatel or lexis raisins 225g (8oz) currants 170g (6oz) fresh wholemeal breadcrumb 110g (4oz) glacé cherries, quartered 55g (2oz) light brown sugar 55g (2oz) finely chopped almonds, hazel nuts or pecans 30g (1oz) candied orange peel, very finely chopped 1 tablespoon finely grated orange zest 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon 1 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves 3 large eggs 150ml (1/4 pint) port 6 tablespoons brandy

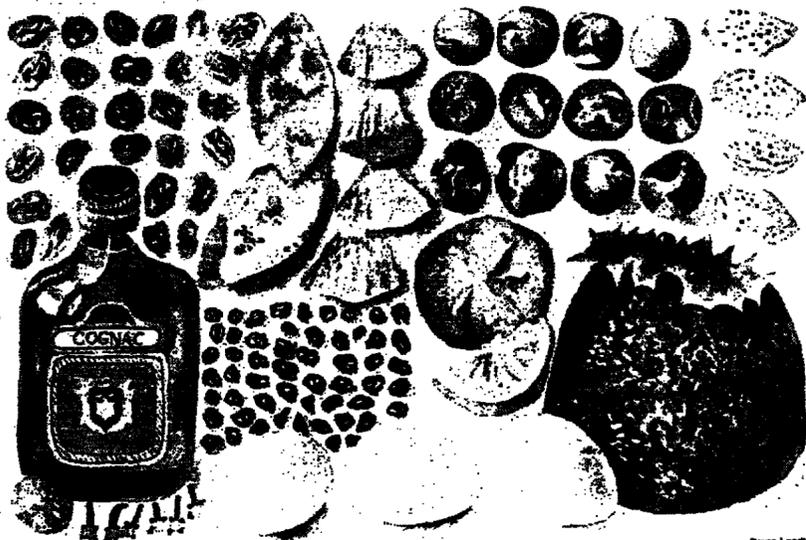
Put all the dry ingredients - raisins, currants, breadcrumbs, glacé cherries, nuts, sugar, fresh and candied peel and spices - into a large bowl and mix well.

In another bowl, whisk together the eggs, port and brandy. Pour this mixture over the dry ingredients and mix very thoroughly to ensure that everything is evenly distributed.

Oil or butter a 1.5 litre (2 1/2 pint) pudding basin and place a circle of greaseproof paper or baking parchment the size of a small saucer in the bottom of the bowl.

Spoon the pudding mixture into the prepared basin and cover it with buttered greaseproof paper and foil tied on tightly with string.

Stand the pudding basin in a large saucepan and pour in boiling water to come half way up the sides of the basin. Bring the water back to the boil,



reduce the heat to a steady simmer, cover and steam the pudding for five hours. Check the water level during cooking and top it up with boiling water as required.

Allow the pudding to become quite cold before covering it with fresh papers and storing it in a cool place. On Christmas day, steam the pudding for two hours.

CHRISTMAS CAKE

- Makes a 1.8kg (4lb) cake 225g (8oz) fine wholemeal or plain flour 1 teaspoon salt 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon 1 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves 225g (8oz) unsalted butter 225g (8oz) light brown sugar 4 large eggs 2 tablespoons honey 225g (8oz) stoned muscatel or lexis raisins 225g (8oz) currants 110g (4oz) chopped nuts, almonds, pecans or hazels 110g (4oz) glacé cherries, quartered 110g (4oz) glacé fruit - pineapple, peaches, plums etc, chopped 2 tablespoons finely chopped candied orange peel 1 tablespoon finely grated orange zest 120ml (4fl oz) brandy or whisky

Butter a round cake tin 20cm (8 inch) diameter and 7.5cm (3 inch), and line it with buttered baking parchment or greaseproof paper. Sift together the flour, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves and set the mixture aside.

Cream the butter in a large bowl, beating it until it is pale and fluffy before adding the sugar. Beat until the mixture is very light.

In another bowl, whisk the eggs with the honey and beat this, a little at a time, into the butter mixture, adding a spoonful of flour with the last few additions of egg to lessen the likelihood of the mixture curdling.

In another bowl, combine the raisins, sultanas, currants, glacé cherries, glacé fruit, candied peel and nuts. Add a couple of spoonfuls of the flour and toss to mix, then add the freshly grated zest. Mix well.

Fold the remaining flour into the creamed mixture, followed by the fruit and nuts and finally the spirits. Mix very thoroughly to distribute all the ingredients evenly then turn the mixture into the prepared tin.

With the back of a spoon, make a shallow depression in the centre of the cake so that when the mixture has finished rising, the top will be about level.

Bake the cake in a preheated oven (150°C/300°F, gas mark 2) for 1 1/2 hours before reducing the heat to (140°C/275°F, gas mark 1) and baking it for another two hours, or until a warm skewer plunged into the centre of the cake comes out clean.

If the cake browns too quickly, cover the top loosely with foil. And do check from time to time to see how it is doing.

Let the cake cool completely before taking it out of the tin and stripping off the papers. Store it in an airtight container.

While there are still quinces to be had, make them into quince jelly to eat with Christmas breakfast toast or into the most old-fashioned of sweets, quince pastilles. Either would make a lovely present. The quince pastilles are taken from The Sweets Book, my own recently published collection of recipes for making sweets of every kind from uncooked peppermint creams to Edinburgh rock, by way of treacle toffee and unctuous truffles.

Spread the paste in the prepared tin and leave it to set for at least 24 hours. Then, except if you plan to use it as a filling for chocolates, turn it on to a surface which has been generously dusted with granulated sugar. Leave the quince to dry in a warm, airy place for at least 24 hours before cutting into individual sweets.

Flax squares are a traditional shape for pastilles, but using a set of canape cutters, circles, hearts, leaves and many more shapes are possible. Dredge the pastilles in sugar and leave them until dry before packing.

The Sweets Book by Shona Crawford Poole is published by Collins, 27.95.

Chop the quinces coarsely without peeling or coring them and put the pieces in a pan with the wine or water. Cook them gently, covered, until the pulp is soft enough to pass easily through a sieve. Strain the puree.

Wash the pan and butter or oil a 20 cm (8 inch) square tin. Use a non-stick tin if you have one.

Return the puree to the pan and add the sugar, lemon juice and spice. Simmer the puree steadily, stirring it often, until it is very thick. Pay attention to the paste as it thickens because it tends to stick to the base of the pan and may easily burn. It is ready when a spoon drawn through the mixture leaves a permanent groove.

Spread the paste in the prepared tin and leave it to set for at least 24 hours. Then, except if you plan to use it as a filling for chocolates, turn it on to a surface which has been generously dusted with granulated sugar. Leave the quince to dry in a warm, airy place for at least 24 hours before cutting into individual sweets.

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When the best is Cristal clear

Jane MacQuitty on the difference a year can make to a splendid champagne

"What's your favourite wine?" is one of those aggravating, perennial questions that wine writers are asked. Pointless, really, because we love 'em all. But if Armageddon arrived this afternoon and I could only down one more glass of wine before bowing out, Roederer's sublime '77 Cristal champagne would be high on my list of possibilities.

As it happens, I have already probably drunk more than my fair share of this luscious liquid. Four years ago my local cut-price off-licence was selling bottles of '77 Cristal for just £18.49, a good £10 cheaper than elsewhere and less than half the price Cristal costs today. Investing a fortnightly or so excuse for a celebration was not difficult.

Great was my disappointment when the '77 Cristal was replaced with the soft, rustic and, by comparison, disappointing '78. By rights, the warm summer of '78 in Champagne should have produced a finer Cristal than that year in the damp, difficult year of '77.

So why was Cristal '77 so much better than Cristal '78? It has taken me four years to find out. I knew already that Tsar Alexander III and the rest of the Russian Imperial Court were especially fond of Roederer. So much so that in 1876 Tsar Alexander asked Roederer to supply him with a superior bottle to the ordinary dull green variety and the firm dutifully came up with the chic Cristal bottle made in crystal-clear glass.

I also knew that Roederer owned 445 acres of prime vineyard land in Champagne of which 185 acres were in the Chardonnay-dominant Côte des Blancs and the remainder, bar one acre, are all planned to Pinot Noir grapes in both the Montagne de Reims and the Belle de la Marne regions.

My taste buds had already told me that Roederer, perhaps more than any other grande marques house, produced remarkably consistent rich, honeyed, biscuity-golden champagnes year in, year out, even in poor years where the two-thirds Pinot Noir to one-third Chardonnay blends are all too apparent. I put this down to the unusually high proportion, for a champagne house, of their own grapes which Roederer use.

Roederer's relatively limited production of some 208,000 cases annually is another quality factor.

What I had not realized, and what rapidly became obvious at a magnificent comparative

Older vintages of Cristal are very difficult to find but 1981 is the current vintage and is available from Addison Vintners, 8 Addison Avenue, London W11 (E33.85); André Simon, 50/52 Elizabeth Street, London SW1 (E35.15) and on Monday from Majestic Wine Warehouses (E35.50).

tasting of seven Roederer Cristal vintages, is that not only is Cristal '77 still streets ahead of Cristal '78 but it is one of the starriest vintages that Roederer have ever made. Unlike other champagne houses' '77s - the majority of which suffered from the spring frosts and poor summer of that year - Roederer's Cristal '77 escaped the vicissitudes of the weather: primarily because the firm delayed the picking of their '77 grapes, allowing them to soak up the hot September sun.

The end result is a mouthwateringly textbook glass of Cristal whose pale gold colour, creamy mousse and rich ripe smoky-biscuity bouquet and palate is as near to perfection, in my opinion, as any champagne producer is going to get.

After the '77 Cristal, my second favourite in this line-up was the '76 - a very hot year with the earliest vintage



start date, in living memory, of September 1. The '76 Cristal is a big, warm, fruity, bouncy champagne whose richness and fruit I enjoyed.

A fraction behind the '76, in my book, was the '75 whose fine mousse smoky character and perfumed aromatic nose and taste is an unusual Caisnal year but worthwhile all the same.

Next in line came the '74, whose buttercup gold colour and delicious butterscotch nose and honeyed hazelnut-like palate has already taken on the scent and style of an aged champagne.

After that came the current vintage Cristal '81 whose pale gold colour and crisp, lively well-made digestive biscuit scent and taste needs time yet to round out into a rich honeyed Roederer mouthful, but it will. The lively lean '79, like other prestige champagnes from this year, is not a good Cristal vintage and nor is the '78 that came last in my line-up.

EATING OUT

Aliment of surprise south of the river

Cheam was where Galton and Simpson had Hancock and Sid James live Railway Cuttings, East Cheam. Since that time, two and a half decades ago, not a lot has been heard of this outer suburb. Its domestic murders are evidently not of sufficient quality to bring them to national attention; no great planning battles were fought there; there have been no riots.

Life behind the leaded lights and stanch studded doors of the joke oak villas looks pretty cosy. Too cosy, maybe; the homes of the Cheamois are clearly not places from which to venture out. How else can one explain the lack of patron-

Jonathan Meades finds culinary treasure trove in deepest suburbia

age of a restaurant of such quality as Al San Vincenzo, which is probably the best thing to have happened to the place since The Lad Himself moved on.

It's a small establishment, plainly decorated (painted bricks, Neapolitan enamel, wooden blinds); it shouldn't be a problem filling it, but it is. The chef wandered out of the kitchen towards the end of the

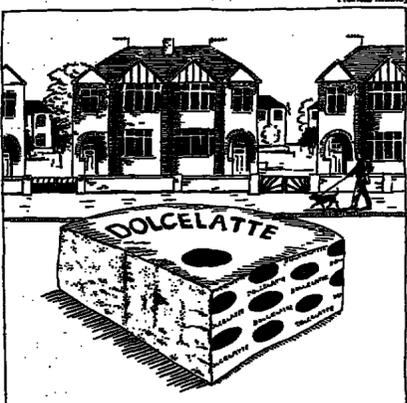
evening when two of us had had the place to ourselves. He claimed, rather desperately, not to mind that business was so flat. It must be peculiarly depressing to know that you're turning out Italian food as good as any to be found in London and yet have no audience.

The fact that the cooking has nothing to do with the formulaic travesty of a great kitchen that 99 per cent of Italian joints foist on their undemanding punters probably discourages the gastronomically timid. I don't know.

Cheam is only 40 minutes from central London, and it's worth the drive.

It's not actually called Railway Cuttings, this street of small shops and car showrooms, but it does run beside the track to Sutton and Carshalton. The incongruity of setting and restaurant is massive. The main concession to local taste is the bread, which is brown and soft. Otherwise, the authenticity is mitigated only by the service, which is conducted by the chef's wife, who is English and upmore to the sulksiness and leering "charm" which are the norms of those men bearing pepper grinders.

The cooking is true to that of the Bay of Naples - for instance, the quite delicious aubergine, done with layers of



tomato and mozzarella in the oven, is a classic of that city. But there's much more to the menu than archaeological correctness. A dish of minced veal stuffed with mozzarella and country ham no doubt owed something to some precedent, but its accompanying butter-based sauce was straight out of the repertoire of modern French cooks. Sauces here are first rate: that with a giant chunk of fresh tuna was based on Marsala and succeeded in curbing the liquor's bullying tendency.

The one pasta dish we tried was of fusilli (the things that look like shorn ringlets) done *al dente* and not smothered by its sauce of home-made spicy sausages, tomato, cream, and parmesan. Vegetables include pumpkin and cabbage prepared with pine nuts and sultanas.

The selection of cheeses shames those of most Italian places. The sweets include a number of combinations of fresh fruit and alcohol - figs with grapes, papaya with port, that kind of thing. I ate a marvellous dish of fresh mango and Dolcelatte.

There is also a splendid version of the "trifle" called tiramisù (literally, pick me up). The wine list is short and unremarkable: a 1981 Barolo by Follini was all right, hearty and soporific. The set dinner

costs £13.50 and two will pay between £40 and £50, which may be a lot for Cheam but is not at all bad besides the few other places in this league.

Barnes may be just over Hammersmith Bridge but it feels as securely Surrey as Cheam. It, too, has recently acquired a restaurant that is of more than parish interest. Sonny's has had a bit of money spent on it and is calculatedly modish - bare boards, Billie Holiday on tap, a glo-log fire for customers who know they can have a laugh at it.

It also has sweet-natured service from a guy who may want to be a movie star but who is at the moment actually proud of doing his job so well and does not confuse service with servility; he quite rightly, I guess, reckons that his current calling is a more dignified one than that of, say, loutish adman. The place is full of loutish admen and their

belles. While at Al San Vincenzo your aperitif is likely to be an obscure medicinal bitters such as Averna or Cynar, here it will be up-to-the-minute blackberry liquor with bubbly. The menu is related to those of such places as the Soho Brasserie and L'Escargot, places which Sonny's chef, Sue Miles, set up.

Mrs Miles has probably had as large an influence as anyone over middle-range restoration during this decade and she is not resting on her laurels. It is the fate of most pioneers to be overtaken, to be replaced *vieux jeu* by their disciples.

The cooking here suggests that Mrs Miles is not going to let that happen to her. There's a fine fish soup, based on conger and served with proper rouille. The Algerian beef sausages, merguez, are accompanied by tabouleh, which is cous-cous-like grain dressed with mint and chilli. Veal is served with an intense alcoholic sauce and sauté of oyster mushrooms.

Best of all was a very game wild duck with a celeriac purée. One sweet was a mistake - a bland bread and butter pudding with decent vanilla-flavoured custard. This fashion for culinary infantilism is one that should be sat on quickly. A walnut tart, on the other hand, was lovely. With a good Vino Nobile di Montepulciano, the bill for two was £45. Agave, well worth crossing the river for.

Al San Vincenzo 52 Upper Mulgrave Road, Cheam, Surrey (01-861 9763). Open Tue-Sun, 12-2.30pm, 6.30-10pm. Closed Sat lunch. Sonny's 84 Chest Road, London SW13 (01-748 0363). Open every day 12.30-3pm and 7.30-11pm.

Advertisement for The Bombay Brasserie. Includes text: "Best Indian restaurant in Britain", "Best buffet lunch in London", "Best non-French restaurant", "Indian restaurant of the year", "Lavish praise. Not-so-lavish price: £8.95." and details about the restaurant's location and offerings.

Advertisement for Asprey. Includes text: "INVITE YOU TO AN EXHIBITION OF CONTEMPORARY AND ANTIQUE STILLOUS GLASS IN THEIR NEW TOP FLOOR ROOM 19 NOVEMBER TO 24 DECEMBER WEEKDAYS 9-5.30pm SATURDAYS 9-1pm 185-189 NEW BOND STREET LONDON W1J 0AR"

Advertisement for Claret for Christmas. Includes text: "Claret for Christmas CHATEAU TIMBERLAY 1983 Robert Girard Gold Medal Paris 1985 £46 per case including delivery UK Mainland Redpath & Thackeray Wines Commission Agents, Cambridge, CB2 4HW Retail Shop at Joshua Taylor's, Sidney Street, Cambridge, CB2 3JH." and an advertisement for Del Colle wine.

Advertisement for Croft Triple Crown Port. Includes text: "Display your crown jewels over dinner." and "I'm offering the new Beaujolais for mere francs, Mr Clarke. No one could accuse you of becoming nouveau riche, Mr Johnstone." and "It's that time of year again at Majestic. Our buyers were in pole position haggling for this year's Nouveau. Racing back with the famous fluid quicker than you could say 'Frost'." and "Be one of the first to get in a few laps."

Advertisement for Del Colle wines. Includes text: "IF YOU WANT THE BEST...REMEMBER TO ADD OUR NAME." and "From the range of Del Colle table wines - selected by Italvini, Britain's leading Italian wine importer." and lists various wine types like WIPOLICELLA, FRASCATI, VERDUZZO, LAMBRUSCO ROSSO, LAMBRUSCO BIANCO.

THE ARTS

Right Royal roadshow

TELEVISION

In The Story of Royal Broadcasting (BBC 1) we saw how television cameras at the wedding of the Duke of York, later George VI, to the Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon were carefully banished to the far side of Westminster Abbey Yard. Three Royal marriages on, and the cameras were pointing straight down the cleavage of Princess Margaret as she best to step from her coach. That's progress for you. By 1969, the Crown was media-conscious enough to bring in Lord Snowdon and theatre designer Carl Toms to oversee costumes and scenery for the Prince of Wales's investiture. The Prince himself, in a contemporary interview, seemed a little uneasy and hoped it "meant a little more" than a showbiz spectacle. The last Royal visit to the United States was trailed on television there, only half in fun, as "Windsor Dynasty". Some would find post-war Prime Minister Attlee's comment more apt today than it was in the Forties: "There is too much boasting of royalty... fulsome adulation and vulgar snobbery". Quite right, but isn't it fun? The Golden Girls (Channel 4) is Susan Harris's latest sitcom. Compared with her first success, Soap, it is naturalistic and conventional in format, based on the lives of three middle-aged women,

Rose, Dorothy and Blanche, who share a house. Also resident is Dorothy's mother Sophia, whose inhibitions have been destroyed by a stroke. Last night, scatty Rose found that the man with whom she had spent the night was dead. Worse to come: his "sister", to whom she had to report the death, turned out to be his wife. Two weeks ago, the accident-prone Rose was dating Dr Jonathan Newman, a psychiatrist at the Grief Center who was also a midge. Sure that Jonathan would propose, Rose literally had nightmares over her decision. In the morning, sitting on her bed and hugging her pillow, she told her friends that she must go on seeing him. "Fine," said grandmother Sophia. "We are all adults here, we don't mind if he sleeps over - let the man out of the pillowcase!" If we went in for this merciless treatment of what used to be called "the afflicted" here, I imagine that midge would rather be treated roughly, like anyone else, than ignored. In any case instead of proposing to Rose, Dr Newman explained over a candlelit dinner that much as he liked her, he wouldn't marry her because she wasn't Jewish. "How was the shrimp?" asked the waiter. "Unfortunately, I'll never know," replied Rose sadly. That's comedy.

Anne Campbell Dixon

Bitter-sweet music

TV PREVIEW

Watching Granada's documentary Making It (ITV tomorrow, 10.30pm) is an entertaining enough way to pass 90 minutes. It offers a fly-on-the-piano-lid account of how three talented young instrumentalists, fresh out of London music colleges, take first steps towards establishing solo careers. But if Michael Beckham had called his film "Not a hope of making it" it might have steered him towards a truer prospect of post-academy life: for most music students, the fact is that of the 300-odd pianists, for instance, who leave British music colleges every year, fewer than ten can reasonably expect to secure long-term solo careers. So when, in the programme, we see the pianist Joanna MacGregor touring North Devon village halls, we should remember that even this unglittering prize constitutes, in blunt statistical terms, "making it". Of course, she has not made the £6,000-a-performance Askaniyaz bracket. Neither has the young violinist Clare McFarlane, even though she is engaged by the Halle Orchestra to play the Mendelssohn Concerto to packed houses. For this she apparently receives a scarcely princely £300 per night. Her fiancé, another bright fiddle prospect, reveals that when he toured America his agents tucked away 30 per cent of his fees. Yet these are the lucky ones: the country is littered with musicians, trained at considerable expense, for whom there is simply no musical work to do. While playing down this matter, the documentary's backstage glimpses certainly have an authentic ring. There is the pianist who likes playing contemporary music, being crisply told to learn the Grieg and Tchaikovsky Concertos if she expects any orchestral bookings. There is another pianist, Amanda Hurton, making the painful discovery that in a piano/violin duo it is the violinist who gets noticed. And there are the hard-nosed agents, assessing the fruits of perhaps 15 years' intensive instrumental study, with scintillating and astute comments like "she will need to do something about that hair". In the course of Making It you hear some snatches of pleasant music-making, too. But that aspect seems rather incidental to the serious business of "making it". Richard Morrison

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Powerful Brecht in any language

L'Opéra de quat'sous Châtelet, Paris

Giorgio Strehler has returned to the Paris theatre this week with a cast of stars in his favourite Threepenny Opera. Report from John Higgins

As the voice of Bertolt Brecht himself is heard on an old record, grinding out in German tones as rough as sandpaper the Moritat, at the opening of this French Threepenny Opera, it is clear that the Châtelet is out to take an international approach to the story of Mac The Knife - and possibly a reverential one too. Giorgio Strehler is in charge of the theatre's major winter production: he has chosen the Brecht-Weill L'Opéra de quat'sous, as we must now call it. He tends to work with stars: Nastassia Kinski was originally billed and Michel Piccoli's name was among those canvassed as Mackie. In the event Strehler settled on Barbara Sukowa, currently on screen in London's West End as Rose Luxemburg, as Polly, while the chosen Mackie is Michael Heltau, for a long time the leading actor at Vienna's Burgtheater where he worked extensively with Strehler, notably in Shakespeare. The cabaret singer Milva was brought in from Italy and so was the design team of Ezio Frigerio and Franca Squarciapino.



A villain in Brooklyn: Michael Heltau as the professional immortal Mackie, with attendant dames

The number of foreigners in leading roles staging and, more importantly, speaking in French may well have encouraged Strehler to move the action from Brecht's mythical London to interwar Brooklyn, which was almost as strong in accents as in banditry. Connoisseurs of London's Dockland may regret the absence of Polly Peachment's second lover who "owned three ships down at Wapping", but Brecht's morality transfers neatly to a world which brings back the caustic flavour and hard-bitten life-style of dames like Roxie Hart.

Strehler has lived with The Threepenny Opera for a long time. He first worked on an Italian version, in collaboration with

himself how to sing in a high baritone. This Mackie is a professional immortal, riding the disadvantages of balding middle age as he rides his good luck while it lasts. At the end, when the hangman's noose hits the stage with a crack worthy of Madame Guillotine herself, Mackie faces death with equanimity until the reprieve arrives in best melodrama style from the wings and Strehler, taking his cue from Brecht's words "this is opera, not life", turns the whole finale into an early Verdi parody. During it Barbara Sukowa lets out a few squally notes. Whether it is by accident or design will probably remain a secret. Otherwise her Polly, with the long golden curls of a

Warner Bros Thirties heroine, exudes sweetness - except when crossed by her rival Lucy (Annick Cisaruk). Miss Sukowa puts some flesh on this role which was none too well fashioned by Brecht - how did Polly and Mackie meet in the first place, and what did Peachment really have against his son-in-law who, after all, was in the same line of business: villainy. Among the actors Strehler has taken the risk of using one professional singer, Milva, who was also in that Milan production. Milva, the original flame-haired temptress, takes on the shadow of Lenya as Jenny, leader of the doxies or dames, and her delivery of the Solomon Song is mastery - a bit

too mastery, in fact, as there is a danger that she will throw out the musical balance of the evening, which is otherwise excellently maintained by a tiny band of musicians, rapidly switching instruments under the expert guiding hand of Peter Fischer. Later performances will be shared by Nicolas Kemmer and Diego Masson.

Giorgio Strehler, in a production which has been immaculately rehearsed as one might expect from this director, carefully splits the worlds of Weill's songs and Brecht's dialogue. The singers metaphorically step out of character as they come to the footlights to deliver the music; twin neon arcs revolve in the darkness while above the stage Brecht's verbal placards are turned into the equivalent of operatic surtitles. Alienation, indeed, and not so far from the technician Strehler used when he "froze" his singers in silhouette in that famous *Enfance* at Salzburg. Musically and visually this is an unusually powerful Threepenny Opera. Frigerio's sets and props delight in a fantasy Brooklyn where every stage limousine is likely to open and reveal a double bed for Mackie's instant delight within.

The weakness remains with the text itself which, as Irving Wardle remarked apropos the National Theatre's dismal attempt at staging the work earlier this year, all too often leaves you wanting the next number to begin as soon as possible. The Peachums, especially are a tedious couple and the female half of the partnership is undercut: their words need a snip of the scissors and so does the evening as a whole. It runs close on four hours even though Acts 2 and 3 are played without an interval. Giorgio Strehler pays homage to Brecht by letting the occasional song revert to the original German - and admitting coincidentally, perhaps, that the *Dreigroschenoper* loses a bit of its snarl in French translation - but fidelity to a complete text with this piece is misplaced reverence. A half-hour cut would turn a distinguished evening into a greater one.

CONCERTS

RPO/Temirkanov Festival Hall

Those who believe Yuri Temirkanov to be a showy but inoffensive dilettante who flies in from Leningrad, tosses a few airy waves in the brass section's direction, then flies off again without doing the music any lasting damage, would have been reassured by his "interpretation" here of Prokofiev's *Lieutenant Kijé* suite. The maestro graced it with an eye-catching choreographic display. My own favourite is his gesture which tells us that the woodwind are playing trills: he raises his hands high above his head and flutters his fingers, like Al Jolson singing *Mammy*. Of course, some people will claim that they can hear perfectly well for themselves that the woodwind are trilling, but perhaps Temirkanov was thinking of the folks at the back of the hall. However, Sibelius's Second Symphony is not a sardonic little fibbertigibbet of a suite, but a towering masterpiece

that demands a conductor who has a clear sense of foreground and background, and fine judgement of tempo. That the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra should have let Temirkanov perpetrate his coarse, bloated vision of the piece suggests a slight miscalculation in the casting department. The first movement was presentably paced, if garish. But the slow movement was turned into a series of musical high hurdles, tackled with would-be menacing ferocity by brass and drums. The scherzo skimmed along without any real attempt at delineation and, in the trio, a pleasant oboe solo was not enhanced by the uncoordinated chording underneath. As for the finale, Temirkanov's hearse-paced slog reduced Sibelius's subtle revelation of his great melody to bathos.

Miriam Fried's playing in Bruch's First Violin Concerto struck an arguably authentic vein of sugary ardour, with plenty of scoops colouring the slower passages. But the Adagio was at times pressed rather hard, and chamelessly, and the double-stopping dash into the finale seemed rushed and insecure.

Richard Morrison



Terrible trio: Ian Hart, Sean McKee and Jake Abraham (left to right) at the Young Vic

A wild scouse fairytale

Pinocchio Boys Young Vic

Jim Morris's "fantasy-fairy" is a retelling of the Pinocchio fairy tale from the puppet's point of view. There are three of them: a gang of Liverpool teenagers who break out of school for a reckless joyride beginning with arson and ending with murder. Their first random ideas of a good time are to burn the school down or go to Wales. As it happens, they smash up the adventure playground they had built in their days of innocence, and go on to destroy a nightclub before taking to the road in a stolen car, snorting the fumes of a fire-extinguisher, for an action-packed trip involving the crash of a police helicopter. The comic element, which

THEATRE

only heightens the ugliness of these events, lies in their detachment from reality. Through the eyes of the boys, adults look like ridiculous dolls an illusion powerfully conveyed in Hazel Ellerby's and Kevin Currie's grotesque performances of robot-like police, teachers, and mugging victims. The only realistic adult is an old woodwork teacher who fears the boys are leaving his workshop "before they have been properly glued together".

Meanwhile, alongside their trail of destruction, the boys are living out fantasy lives as guests on a television show, answering questions on their criminal records and winning large cash prizes. You could object that the play is simultaneously didactic and ambiguous. Is the blame being laid on television, or is the cause left to the spectator's social imagination? But in Pip Broughton's Paines Plough production, such questions are swept aside by the authentic voice of Liverpool: stunted, virile, and calculated to make soft Southerners quail. Jake Abraham, Ian Hart, and Sean McKee play it with ferocity and build three sharply defined characters within the limits of a tiny vocabulary and bludgeoning insults. As their performances are simultaneously projected on a bank of monitor screens, they appear both as a group of callow thugs and as heroes in their own dream: an alarmingly believable combination. Irving Wardle

Inspired shades of Fonteyn

DANCE

The Sleeping Beauty Covent Garden

At last, an opportunity to see how the Royal Ballet's ballerinas used to dance *The Sleeping Beauty*. To find a comparison within the company for Gelsey Kirkland's performance at Covent Garden on Thursday, you have to go back to the days of Fonteyn, Elvin and Bertosova. Like them, Kirkland dances beautifully, and eloquently too; and of course she does not look the least bit like any of them because, as they did, she has absorbed a tradition and made it entirely her own. In the birthday scene, I wish I could show you the way she seemed positively to skip with happiness at her first entry, or how she brought a hushed enchantment to that moment when Aurora turned gently, raptly among her four suitors, catching up the other dancers into the quiet magic. In her main solo, the carriage of her arms became a

metaphor for a young girl's shy excitement at being the centre of all attention. Her next entry was a light delirium of joy, destroyed by the pain of the spindle, but turning again momentarily to an almost hysterical relief before the spell worked her collapse. The vision scene found her dancing with such soft movement as to draw the audience into extra alertness, like an actor compelling attention by whispering. The adagio, in which the prince falls in love with this vision, was almost transparent in its delicacy, but her solo generated a warmth that became incandescent. Then the awakening, bringing such a rush of gratitude and the big set pieces of the wedding duet and solo, beautifully phrased, building gradually and inevitably to their climaxes. Right through the coda she maintained a sweet, fresh delicacy, and into the finale where a raised arm became a gesture of blessing and thanks, and an arabesque gathered into its long, slow sweep all the implications of dynastic grandeur implied by Petipa's choreography and Tchaikovsky's music, and the promise of happy ever after.

which Perrault's story demands. What a pleasure to see so many young dancers on stage, and in the auditorium, with eyes out on stalks, to take in every moment. One can hope her example will inspire others as Fonteyn and Makarova's once did her. John Percival

I Want Old Red Lion

Nell Dunn and Adrian Henri - pace Miss Dunn's *Shimmering* and Mr Henri's constant polymathic ambitions - are writers on identity of their period that it comes as something of a shock to learn that they have collaborated on a script which spans 60 years. It is almost as though the rapid grin of the 1960s had spread to encompass most of the century. *I Want* follows the relationship, from the 1920s to the present day, of an upper-class girl and a working-class lad. First meeting in a bookshop, they share a taste for Romantic poets whose names are invoked like items on a shopping list. Their youthful fling over, they continue to keep in touch the rest of their lives. He marries and works in a factory, she flits about exotic places with a string of lovers. Since they communicate largely by letter, the play's structure resembles that of a staged biography. The problem is that Dolly and Albert are taken characters rather than specific people: their undying affection for each other is something to be taken on trust rather than achieved in person. "We did use to make each other laugh," enthuses Dolly in old age - but one's memory of the first half provides no evidence for this assertion. Worse, their mode of address gleefully embraces the rosy gash of Mills & Boon cliché, while Albert's effusive recapitulation of Henri's wilder fourth-form lyricism: the reader or auditor can only take so many pairs of flimsy white petals.

Sex and its metaphors are the backbone of the play, but the occasional attempt to comment on the conflict of class and lust with such observations as "We were both intimidated by our cultures" suggests nothing so much as a pair of biochemists in a horror film. A two-hander spanning 60 years is a tall order without recourse to aging make-up. Naomi Buch and Carl Chase start at a brisk lick and almost imperceptibly slow down, but there is little else to suggest that time has made any impression on them. Kate Short's excellent incidental music on the cello is the prime attraction of the evening. Martin Cropper

La Musique



Cool jazz with a cool drink in the Burlington Bar from the keyboard of James McKissic the celebrated American pianist. Savour tea in the lounge to the delicate strains of the harp with resident harpist Katherine White. Enjoy sweet violin and piano melodies with Eduardo Gallardo and Adolph Ziros over your gourmet meal in the Oak Room restaurant. La musique at Le Meridien.

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Noel Goodwin

NEW SADLER'S WELLS OPERA For nobles, swells, buffo people THE COUNT OF LUXEMBOURG Franz Lehár RUDDIGORE Gilbert & Sullivan New production sponsored by PRUDENTIAL February 19-March 14 Sadler's Wells Theatre Tickets from £3.50-£16.50 01-278 8916

كندا عا الراجل

REVIEW

Dirty tricks diplomacy

The CIA's Chile campaign was probably its most successful operation. The emphasis on bribery, propaganda, economic sabotage, kidnapping, and even political assassination, bore all the hallmarks of a classic US-sponsored clandestine operation.



September 11, 1973: surrounded by armed bodyguards, Chilean President Salvador Allende enters the palace main courtyard. Minutes later the building was surrounded by troops and bombed in a CIA-backed military coup. Dr Allende is then said to have committed suicide.

PAPERBACKS

The CIA, A Forgotten History by William Blum (Zed, £8.95)

"I don't see why we need to stand by and watch a country go communist just because of the irresponsibility of its own people." With these words Henry Kissinger launched the Nixon administration's secret campaign to overthrow the democratically elected government of President Allende of Chile.

The emphasis on misinformation, bribery, propaganda, economic sabotage, kidnapping, and even political assassination, bore all the hallmarks of a classic US-sponsored clandestine operation. Once more, the agency had received a sanction from the highest levels in government to flex America's foreign policy muscles in an area where the nation's security was said to be threatened.

Minor classic of a musical maestro

JAZZ RECORDS

Oscar Pettiford: Quintet & Nonet (Affinity AFF 160)

No one talks much about Oscar Pettiford these days, which is a miserable fate for one of jazz's half-dozen outstanding exponents of the double bass.

Formed from a pair of sessions recorded in 1954 - each originally available as a 10-inch LP on the Bethlehem label - this compilation also features Pettiford in his additional guises as an imaginative composer and arranger.

The quintet features the unusual front line of Julius Watkins's french horn and Charlie Rouse's tenor saxophone (later to be reunited in a short-lived band called Les Jazz Modes).

ROCK RECORDS

Killing Joke: Brighter Than A Thousand Suns (Epic EPC 850)

With Brighter Than A Thousand Suns, Killing Joke have taken another step forward on the not-so-rocky path to mainstream acceptance.

Storj Coleman's previous stentorian bellow is now moderated to convey the sweeping melody of "Adoration" with carefully pitched notes and precisely articulated words.

CLASSICAL RECORDS

Coleman: Cello Concerto, Landscapes, Ballads, London Sinfonietta, Berlin Radio SO/Carewa, Unicorn DKP 9053 (LP)

An earlier record of chamber music by Colin Matthews had tested the waters, but the new Unicorn release jumps right in. Both these works are those of someone who has been burned by Mahler and wants to return to the fire.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1107

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions on Thursday, November 20, 1986.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include: 1. Woman's vote activist (11), 9. Quickly (7), 10. Scous noun (5), 11. Metal mineral (3), 13. Whisky grain (4), 16. Friends (4), 17. Map pressure line (6), 18. Not any (4), 20. Mize (4), 21. Regard with esteem (4), 22. Large exhibition (4), 23. Methods (4), 25. Tall lettuce (3), 28. Praise lavishly (5), 29. Casava starch (7), 30. Scout movement founder (3,6), 24. Coral circle (5), 26. Vomit (4), 25. Hint (4), 27. Vomit (4).

SOLUTION TO NO 1106 and SOLUTION TO NO 1107. Includes crossword solutions and a list of winners for the Collins Thesaurus prize.

Scaling the peaks of high society

Dr Charles Burney, A Literary Biography, by Roger Lonsdale (Oxford, £12.50)

If you have ever wanted to read a proper account of the two most famous episodes in Dr Burney's long life, then you should look elsewhere than in this at first rather self-consciously scholarly book.

Neither his conversation with Samuel Johnson on the madness of his son, nor the events surrounding the anonymous publication of his daughter Fanny's first novel are here described, on the curious grounds that they are too well known to merit inclusion.

However, although Lonsdale is an instructive biographer, this study is impressively researched and sound in its judgments. It is never smaller than when exposing Fanny's shallowest mentor of her father - an idealized, bloodless portrait, more properly called her last novel - as the product of her "selfish egotism".

Norfolk, playing to the "stocks and trees" and "foggy Aldermen" of King's Lynn. Then came seven years of feverish activity that produced a book about cases, two fact-finding European tours, the publication of two enormously successful accounts of his travels and finally, in 1776, the appearance of the first part of his pioneering History. Although he was later to collaborate with the King on a book about Handel, he never enjoyed a greater literary triumph - and his prize was membership of the magic Johnsonian circle.

In truth, Burney was a relentlessly minor figure, who pursued not greatness but success, and who at the end of his life was honoured more as a relic of an earlier age than for his own achievement. He was the Stephen Spender of his era. A man of indefatigable energy,

Burney once said that "he had no time to be happy" but he spent his last years happily enough, sustained by "summers from people of high rank", and by his memories of a lifetime among the coat-tails of the great. Above all he was "proud in being Johnson's successor in His Majesty's bounty", as the recipient of a royal pension.

We do not know which of his many memories of the famous occupied his mind on his deathbed, as fireworks filled the night sky, and London celebrated Napoleon's defeat; but Macaulay may unconsciously have provided a clue, when he wrote of Fanny's summons to court: "Not such are the raptures of a Circassian father who sold his pretty daughter well to a Turkish slave-merchant... he seems to have thought that going to court was like going to heaven."

Victims of life's realities

BOOKS IN BRIEF

Luzhin finds on the chess board a way of controlling and defending himself against life. However, as the novel progresses, the comforting "Uncle Tom" principle goes by the board and from armchair psychology the reader is thrust into the game to invade Luzhin's entire perception of the world, so that he remembers his professional journeys in terms of mental breakdown and mental. Ultimately a tale of mental breakdown, The Defence has room for both humour and pathos. A very clever book.

The Sin Ester, by Alice Thomas Ellis (Penguin, £2.95). This disturbing concoction of lyric and drama manipulates the reader's reactions in the same way that Rose twists the feelings of her complacent, narrow-minded relatives. The novel, like the Welsh cottage, is filled with discordant elements which refuse to fit into any tidy pattern. Married couples seem ill-fitted, central characters remain strangely absent, emotions run riot, and social communication fails. Characters snipe and get at each other despite the encroaching death of their father lying comatose upstairs.

The Defence, by Vladimir Nabokov (Oxford, £3.95). The story of a young man's relationship with chess moves from the discovery of genius to madness. While his mother languishes in bed sucking bubble-gum and his father pursues his sprightly aunt, ambition, motherhood and books, society and an ivory tower are faced head on, and there is a sharp sense of progression as Frederica changes from gauche teenager to sophisticated, and the realities of Stephany's chosen path become slowly apparent. The art and life of Van Gogh providing the novel's central leitmotif, Still Life throbs with insight and originality.

These ten powerful tales of love, death, art, and spirituality resound with meaning and yet somehow evade interpretation. Illusion and reality mix, as the stories leap from China to Greece, Japan to Amsterdam, the modern world of storytelling to the ancient world of myth and fable. The tales are filled with a sense of déjà vu, of a ritualized retelling of myth, and the repetitive structure of fairy tales.

A.S. Byatt combines a sense of historic retrospection with poetic integrity, and the stark realities of birth, death, and the loss of virginity. Conflicts between love and

are uneasy bed-fellows, as the dying man's cry for water is mistaken for a desire to see Walker, and the final childish trick back-fires with demonic consequences.

These ten powerful tales of love, death, art, and spirituality resound with meaning and yet somehow evade interpretation. Illusion and reality mix, as the stories leap from China to Greece, Japan to Amsterdam, the modern world of storytelling to the ancient world of myth and fable.

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CHESS

A fighting chance for the bronze

The English team for the controversial Olympiad in Dubai is a powerful one; Tony Miles, John Nunn, Nigel Short, Jon Speelman, Murray Chandler and Glenn Flear. I write "controversial" since Israel has been excluded and several federations have refused to play in protest. These include Norway, Holland, Sweden, Denmark and the US Virgin Islands. Our squad has been somewhat weakened by a parallel decision by Grandmaster Jonathan Mestel not to participate. Nevertheless, his replacement, Flear, was the convincing victor of the GLC Category 13 tournament earlier this year, and he is a formidable reserve. I would say we have a fair chance of repeating our silver medal success from 1984 and bronze should certainly be within our reach. Gold, though, is out of the question, since the USSR side will play the world's top four players: Kasparov, Karpov, Sokolov, and Yusupov, the last-named latter being the loser of the Candidates' Final. On their day, our team members can defeat anyone. Here, for example, is a fine technical display by our Olympic top board from last year's Interpolis tournament at Tilburg. White: Tony Miles. Black: Victor Korchnoi. Queen's Gambit Accepted.

BRIDGE

The case for the defence

Defence, as bridge writers endlessly restate, is the most difficult part of the game. The "switchback", as I call it, is one of the most difficult defences to conduct. Here is a good example. Teams: North-South Game. Dealer North.

Bridge hand diagram showing cards in North and South hands. North: ♠ 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, ♣ 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, ♠ 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, ♣ 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2.

White systematically gains space on the Queen's side. Black's main trump is occupation of ♠4, but it is of mainly optical benefit. Forcing open the "a" file in this fashion is the decisive manoeuvre. Once a Black target has been exposed in this sector, White can turn to the task of expelling the Black Knights. Or 38...Ng6 39 Bd5! A judicious moment to swap Bishop for Knight. If 41...Rxa6 42 bxa6 followed by ♠4, winning the King and Pawn ending. But the Rook and Pawn ending is equally hopeless for Black.

THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

Estates of discontent

The arts world is eagerly awaiting the outcome of discreet negotiations between the Duke of Devonshire and the British Museum over the proposed sale of more Old Master drawings from his stately home, Chatsworth. Two years ago, failure to agree on the value of 72 drawings led to the sale of the collection at Christie's, netting £21 million.

Hair apparent

King Lear may be sporting an untidy stubble when he stalks the Olivier next month. The problem is that Anthony Hopkins, who is rehearsing for the role, is presently the clean-shaven media tyrant of Pravda. He admits two weeks may not suffice to cultivate a majestic beard - but he expects it to improve with every performance.

To improve its Gaelic radio service to the Shetlands, the BBC asked the local council for the names of Gaelic-speaking contributors. But it seems virtually nobody there speaks the language. BBC Radio Shetlands tells me it regularly replaces Gaelic broadcasts from the Hebrides with programmes in the islanders' Scots dialect.

Black marks

The Royal Shakespeare Company's rejection of sponsorship from Barclays Bank because of its South African connections is causing acute embarrassment to another theatrical group. Since being launched 14 years ago, by a black South African exile, the Temba company has prided itself on being at the forefront of anti-racist theatre. Its present touring production, Wozza Albert, is an eloquent denunciation of apartheid.



Unfortunately, it has financial troubles, and is heavily indebted to its bankers. Barclays: "We do have a difficulty here," administrator Roger Lang tells me. "We've been trying to switch to another bank, but nobody will talk to us. Until our deficit is paid off, we can't move."

Asked why founder Alton Kumalo opened Temba's account with the bank, he said: "I suppose, coming from South Africa, it was the only one he knew."

Foul play

Westminster City Council's generous replacement funding for the arts, following the demise of the GLC, evidently does not extend to collecting their rubbish. A row is brewing over demands that the Arts Council pay £600 a year for refuse removal and indemnity municipal operatives for any disaster that may befall them on their way to and from its Piccadilly headquarters. Lawyers have been consulted. One was suggested the dustmen form a theatrical group and apply for an Arts Council grant.

Playing attitude leads he should select the ♠4, which would allow East to find a heart switch. But if West held

he should lead the ♠2 to convey the message that, as he sees it, spades offer the best and possibly the only hope of beating the contract. Jeremy Flint

TOP SOUL ANALYST REVIEWS LATEST CHESS COMPUTERS

Nowg Constellation Forte & Expert. Chosen by G.M. Timoshchenko to be the best chess computer during the recent World Championship.

Nowg Constellation Forte & Expert. Chosen by G.M. Timoshchenko to be the best chess computer during the recent World Championship.

Advertisement for Nowg Constellation Forte & Expert chess computers, including contact information and a list of features.

THE WEEK AHEAD



DANCE STAR QUALITY: Darshan Singh Bhullar dances in Siobhan Davies's The Run to Earth...



JAZZ TRUMPET CALL: Miles Davis, who turned 60 this year, makes no secret of his lust for the pop-star status of Michael Jackson or Prince...



GALLERIES GRY WOLFE: Edward Wolfe (seen above in a self-portrait) was born in South Africa...



THEATRE LUCE LIVING: Clare Booth Luce, now 83, has been a journalist, Congresswoman, ambassador, actress and playwright...



BOOKS SPY STORIES: Anthony Blunt would probably prefer to be remembered as the art expert and surveyor of the Queen's pictures...



OPERA YURI'S GIRL: Ashley Putnam, the New York born soprano, makes her Covent Garden debut in the title role of Janacek's Jenůfa...

THEATRE OPENINGS

LILLIAN: Frances de la Tour as Lillian Hellman in William Luce's monodrama based on Hellman's autobiographical writings...

SELLING THE SIZZLE: Commissioned comedy by Peter Gibbs, 'about the seeder side of selling'...

GHOSTS: Fast West End transfer of the David Thacker Young Vic production retaining Vanessa Redgrave and Tom Wilkinson as Mrs Alving and Pastor Manders...

MR & MRS NOBODY: Judi Dench and Michael Williams in Keith Waterhouse's adaptation of the George and Weedon Grossmith book about Victorian lower-middle class life...

GUILDFORD: The Real Thing: Rula Lenska and Dennis Waterman head an otherwise Australian company in a production of the Tom Stoppard play...

LEICESTER: High Society: World Premiere of a stage version of the Cole Porter musical. Adapted and directed by Richard Eyre...

WOMAN IN MIND: Aycubom's latest foray into middle-class frustration. Julia McKenzie shines as the touched fantasist of the title...

KAFKA'S DICK: Alan Bennett's rather over-ambitious comic fantasy about literary detachment in Prague stars Roger Lloyd Pack and Geoffrey Palmer...

BREAKING THE CODE: Derek Jacobi gives a compelling account of the pioneering computer scientist Alan Turing...

TELEVISION

A WINDOW ON THE WORLD: BBC survey of 50 years of TV journalism which rightly pays tribute to non-BBC pioneers...

THE MAGIC RECTANGLE: Robert Robinson on how television creates celebrities, with Jimmy Savile, Patrick Moore and a deliciously funny closing sequence...

BREAKING UP: One day there will be a TV series about a marriage that lasts. Meanwhile, another of the other sort...

THE ENGLISHWOMEN'S WARDROBE: A thoroughly entertaining 40 Minutes in which Margaret Thatcher, Seina Scott and a teenage fatty from Watford tell Angela Huth about their favourite clothes...

SALVADOR DALL: Arena profile of the enfant terrible of surrealism, fleshed out with film from the Dali archive...

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Tonight, Tues and Fri the new Ian Judge Cav and Pag, only recently welcomed by Paul Griffiths...

SCOTTISH OPERA: Reach Aberdeen on their tour with two performances of Graham Vick's uncompromisingly stark production of Carmen...

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CONCERTS

MAHLER'S RESURRECTION: Yuri Temirkanov conducts massed forces including the RPO and Brighton Festival Chorus in a performance of Mahler's Symphony No 2...

CHRISTOPHER FRY: Chooses his favourite prose and poetry in a new series of With Great Pleasure (Radio 4, today, 4-4.45pm)...

OPTIMISTIC TRAGEDY: Pop punk Toyah Wilcox stars in Vsevolod Vishnevsky's play about a young woman commissar sent to discipline the fleet in the early days of the Russian Revolution...

SEVEN DAYS IN MAY (1964): Burt Lancaster plotting a military coup against US President Fredric March in John Frankenheimer's gripping thriller...

THE CALIFORNIA DOLLS (1981): Peter Falk leads cheerfully vulgar piece about women wrestlers which was the final film of Robert (The Godfather) Aldrich...

EXODUS (1960): Otto Preminger's mammoth account of the birth of Israel, spread over two successive afternoons...

FATHER BROWN (1954): Alec Guinness in a civilized and witty rendering of Chesterton's priest-detective by director Robert Hamer...

GERMANY, PALE MOTHER (1979): Writer-director Helma Sanders-Brahms's sharply-observed autobiographical drama of a woman's struggles in wartime Germany...

CONCERTS

ROYAL CONCERT: Antal Dorati conducts the RPO in Haydn's Symphony No 3, the Handel-Beecham Scores Go A-Begging Suite, and Sir Yehudi Menuhin and Leland Chen solo in Bach's Double Violin Concerto...

WAND/BBC SO: Günter Wand conducts the BBC SO in Beethoven's Symphony No 1 and Bruckner's Symphony No 9...

TILSON-THOMAS: Michael Tilson-Thomas with the LSO and Pro Musica Chorus perform Beethoven's Symphony No 9 and Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms...

BEAUX ARTS TRIO: make one of their rare concerto appearances in Beethoven's Concerto in C major for Piano, Violin, Cello and Orchestra Op 56 with the Philharmonia...

ROCK

RICHARD THOMPSON: Bitter lyrics fuel the purposeful essence of one of Britain's greatest guitarists. Wednesday, Rock City Nottingham (0502 112544)...

CHRIS BISCOE: Best known for his work with Mike Westbrook, this underrated saxophonist turns out to be an interesting composer and stimulating bandleader...

BUDDY RICH ORCHESTRA: Although there is sometimes a suspicion that Rich selects his young sidemen from the West Point rather than graduation day at Juilliard...

PSYCHO III (18): More visitors arrive at the Bates Motel, though few of them leave intact. Anthony Perkins plays psychopath, Norman Bates, with dry comic timing...

KILLING JOKE: After a summer of demoralizing delays and postponements, the rankings prophets of the apocalypse finally hit their stride...

OPINIONS

George Benson, with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in tow, returns to Wembley 'in the round'...

Although there is sometimes a suspicion that Rich selects his young sidemen from the West Point rather than graduation day at Juilliard...

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Michael Gambon, a television Oscar Wilde and currently with the National Theatre in the farce Tons of Money...

Andrews Sisters soars over the trees as the boy Philip savours his short-lived freedom and 'Cruising Down the River' offers a lyricism and peace that the embattled Marlow will never know...

Without the music The Singing Detective might be hard to take. 'Sweet and sharp and sad and funny,' as Potter describes them, the songs not only provide an escape route for the hero but give the audience a respite from what would otherwise be a tale of almost unrelieved hopelessness...

Michael Gambon, a television Oscar Wilde and currently with the National Theatre in the farce Tons of Money, plays Marlow. Janet Suzman is his ex-wife, Alison Steadman his mother and Joanne Whalley from Edge of Darkness has the dual role of the nurse who soothes Marlow's sores and the night club girl who feeds his fantasies...

Peter Waymark The Singing Detective starts on BBC1 tomorrow, 9.05-10.15pm.

JAZZ

FUTURITIES: Steve Lacy's nonet accompanies a pair of dancers in settings of 20 poems by Robert Creeley...

HERMETO PASCOAL/SILKAPHONICS: Pascoal, a keyboardist and composer, is one of the senior figures of Brazilian music. Silkaphonics, led by the avant-garde trombonist Ray Anderson, play ironic jazz-junk...

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GALLERIES OPENINGS

BARBER DRAWINGS: First showing outside Birmingham for important collection of old master drawings from the Barber Institute...

LAURA FABER: Highly coloured quality paintings, often of New York skylines, by young British artist influenced by Clements...

G ELIAS: Retrospective of graphic art by the 70-year-old Viennese artist Gertrude Elias...

PAINTING IN SCOTLAND: Paintings by Ramsay, Raeburn and Wilkie, demonstrating the quality of workmanship and inspiration that came out of Scotland during its Enlightenment...

RODIN: Major show exploring the close relationship between the old master Auguste Rodin's drawings and sculpture...

PHOTOGRAPHY LAND, FAY GOODWIN: Haunting, mystical British landscapes with just a dash of romanticism by contemporary photographer, Fay Goodwin...

BOOKINGS DECEMBER AT THE BARBICAN: Highlights include concerts with John Williams, James Galway, John Dankworth, Cleo Laine, Robert Tear and Benjamin Luxon...

FIRST CHANCE JE SUIS LE CAHIER: Over 250 pages from 45 of Picasso's sketchbooks. Ends Wed. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1. (01-734 9052)...

LAST CHANCE THE MAN WHO MISTOOK HIS WIFE FOR A HAT: Last performances of new chamber opera by Michael Nyman. Today and tomorrow. CCA Theatre, The Mall, London, SW1 (01-930 3647)...

For ticket availability, performance times, telephone the numbers listed. The numbers for Patrick and Martin Cropper, Radio, television and films on tv: Peter Waymark; Concerts: Max Harrison; Opera: Hilary Finch; Films: Geoff Brown; Galleries: Sarah Jane Checkland; Jazz: Richard Williams; Rock: David Sinclair; Photography: Michael Young; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse



Floozie and sleuth: Joanne Whalley and Michael Gambon pay a fantasy visit to the 1940s in The Singing Detective

Sweet songs in sleazy bars

Salient facts about Dennis Potter are his bitter-sweet childhood in the Forest of Dean, his deep affection for the popular songs of the 1930s and 1940s and a film noir world of sleazy bars and no-good dames. The suitably convoluted sub-plot of The Singing Detective concerns deception and murder and a body fished out of the Thames, with Marlow's alter ego, a nightclub crooner, called in to solve the crime. To these two layers, Potter has added a third, in which the hero relives his formative years in what seems a fair approximation of Potter's own Forest of Dean. His granddad coughs up coal dust and there are tensions between an easygoing father and a determined mother, who, like Potter's mother, plays the piano at the social club. As in Pennies From Heaven, Potter uses period songs to counterpoint the story and bring out its ironies. 'Don't Fence Me In' from Bina Crosby and the Andrews Sisters soars over the trees as the boy Philip savours his short-lived freedom and 'Cruising Down the River' offers a lyricism and peace that the embattled Marlow will never know. Without the music The Singing Detective might be hard to take. 'Sweet and sharp and sad and funny,' as Potter describes them, the songs not only provide an escape route for the hero but give the audience a respite from what would otherwise be a tale of almost unrelieved hopelessness. Michael Gambon, a television Oscar Wilde and currently with the National Theatre in the farce Tons of Money, plays Marlow. Janet Suzman is his ex-wife, Alison Steadman his mother and Joanne Whalley from Edge of Darkness has the dual role of the nurse who soothes Marlow's sores and the night club girl who feeds his fantasies. Peter Waymark The Singing Detective starts on BBC1 tomorrow, 9.05-10.15pm.

Advertisement for the play 'Killing Jessica' at Savoy Theatre, featuring Patrick Macnee, David Langton, Jennie Linden, Liz Robertson, Bryan Forbes, and others.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, partially cut off, mentioning 'THE SOUTH BA...' and 'FESTIVAL...'.

150

ENTERTAINMENTS

THE SOUTH BANK CENTRE
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Symphony No. 9 (Choral)
Conductor: Claudio Abbado

BARBICAN HALL
RAYMOND GUBBY presents
TONIGHT at 7.30 p.m.
MAGIC OF DOVY CARTE
GILBERT and SULLIVAN
Conductor: Raymond Gubby

ROYAL ALBERT HALL
SUNDAY 30 NOVEMBER at 3.30 p.m.
ROMANSI
BARBER OF SEVILLE
WATER MUSIC SUITE
PIANO CONCERTO

Placido Domingo
sings in concert
ROSARIO ANDRADE
with THE PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA
Guest Conductor: Luis Garcia Navarro

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
MONDAY NEXT 17 NOVEMBER at 7.30 p.m.
ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY
Conductor: LASZLO HELTAY

WIGMORE HALL
MUSIC BY PAUL GILLOV
Conductor: Paul Gillov

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Thursday 20 November 8.00pm
BETHOVEN
SYMPHONY NO 9 (CHORAL)

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER at 3 p.m.
THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS

NIKOLAI DEMIDENKO
PIANIST
QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL LONDON
17th NOV. 7.45 PM

ROYAL ALBERT HALL
Saturday 6 December at 3.00 pm and 7.30 pm
CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS

CLAUDIO CRISMANI
Liszt's Spianato, 4 French Songs from Second Year

St John's Smith Square
HELP CHORUS, HANOVER ORCHESTRA OF LONDON

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER at 7.30 p.m.
KING'S COLLEGE CHOIR

THE MAGNIFICENT VICTOR HERBERT
An Evening of Famous romantic songs and Music

THE BACH CHOIR
FAMILY CAROLS
LONDON BRASS
THE KNELLER HALL TRUMPETERS

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
Tomorrow afternoon 3.30 pm
TOSCA
Concert version - with some acting.

THE HANOVER BAND
WEBER
20th Anniversary Birthday Concert

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER at 7.45 pm
MOZART

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SPORTS DIARY

Wembley drag

For the first time in 11 years smoking has been banned from the playing arena during the Benson and Hedges tennis championships at Wembley.

Present tension

Spare a thought for Australian tennis coach Bob Brett who, in return for a percentage of the prize money, advises, nags and organizes a group of players including Paul McNamee, Robert Seguso and Scott Davis.

Double doubled

Marcus Williams, editor of last year's Times book commemorating 200 years of cricket reports, is not taking too great umbrage that the title - Double Century - has also been chosen for the MCC's bicentenary history.

Tunes of glory

New Zealand rugby players are just sentimentalists. After an extremely physical victory over France in Toulouse the sounds of revelry could be heard drifting from the All Blacks' meeting room as they enjoyed their happy hour.

Kiwi kith

The home countries should feel no inferiority complex where the All Blacks are concerned. The team's last two tours to France have included Jamie ("The Trout") Salmon and John ("Kipper") Gallagher, both brought up in London.

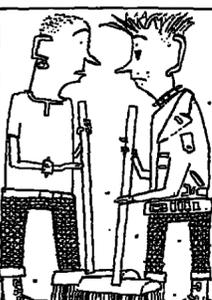
Trots

How can you express your political convictions in a country where political rallies are banned? The answer is simple: run, don't walk.

Star turn

This week in a Spanish court, Barcelona came face to face with its dissident West German star, Bernd Schuster, who is upset at being left out of the squad and is fighting an attempt to end his contract.

BARRY FANTONI



'I've been sweeping up the mess left by the queue for Virgin shares'

The first anniversary of the Hillsborough agreement is being greeted with bitter hostility by many Ulster Protestants - among them the historian A.T.Q Stewart

Give us back our voice



If I have a grievance against the present government it is that it has denied us the glamour of mass rallies, of forests of scarlet flags and columns of black-shirted men marching past the Leader while huge crowds cheer every word that falls from her lips.

I am quite aware that these words may offend some English readers. If I lived in Tunbridge Wells I think they would offend me also. They might even upset me a bit if I lived in Edinburgh or Cardiff. But, as it happens, I live in Belfast, and I believe them to be justified. I invite Tunbridge Wells to consider the facts.

I am a British citizen, living in the United Kingdom. Yet since last November, as a consequence of the Anglo-Irish Hillsborough agreement, I have been governed from a heavily-guarded, bunker-like building on the outskirts of Belfast by men who are not responsible in any way to the population of Northern Ireland.

Since it may be the general opinion in England that this part of the world is inhabited only by "anthropophagi and men whose heads do grow beneath their shoulders", I must make it clear that what applies to me applies equally to the thousands of English people who are resident here.

The bunker is called Maryfield, and it is the headquarters of the Anglo-Irish inter-governmental conference. It is discreetly hidden from the main Belfast-Bangor road by trees and grey steel gates, and its grounds adjoin the Palace Barracks army base and a Royal Ulster Constabulary depot.

Less than two miles away, in an open and picturesque setting, the magnificent building which once housed the parliament and government of Northern Ireland lies empty and deserted. It was the gift of the British people to the people of Northern Ireland in 1932. Now it is a memorial to the death of democracy. And even those who might be disposed to criticize the democratic record of Stormont should reflect on this.

Democracy has the power to cleanse itself. Government by *diktat* has no such power. Those who govern from Maryfield are not any elected government. Half of the committee consists of British ministers and civil ser-

vants of the Irish Republic, who have no constitutional rights of any kind in this territory.

At this point let me make it clear that I have no great personal hostility to the Irish Republic, nor any desire to interfere in its internal affairs. It is simply that I do not wish to be ruled by them, or, at least, as St Augustine said of chastity, not yet. I certainly do not wish to be forced into an Irish Republic against my will, since, rightly or wrongly, I believe its Catholic, Gaelic and anti-English ethos would not be congenial to my people, any more than it would be to most British people.

Secrecy surrounds all the activities of Maryfield. The identity of the civil servants is not divulged and they are completely sealed off from the population. They are known to include senior officials of the republic's Foreign Office who are flown by Irish army helicopter to a British army base inside the border. A British helicopter then transfers them to Maryfield. Their only contacts are

with Dublin and with their Foreign Office counterparts.

But there is something infinitely worse. Not one of these people is in any way answerable to the electorate of Northern Ireland, Catholic or Protestant, Unionist or nationalist. Yet they are making and enforcing laws which are repugnant to the greater part of the population. Whether they are good laws or bad laws is beside the point. In this part of the United Kingdom democracy has ceased to operate. Mrs Thatcher has stripped one and a half million people of their democratic rights, and with hardly a voice in the rest of Britain raised in alarm.

The sudden loss of one's civil rights is a curious sensation, and rather frightening. Having lived all my life under the British democratic system I am taking it badly. Can it be possible in 1986 that I can be deprived of rights for which Parliament fought a civil war and executed a king? Can the Representation of the Peoples Act from 1832 to 1928 simply be

wiped off the Statute Book for selected groups of British subjects?

Here, you may say, "Hold hard. Have you actually been disfranchised?" Strictly speaking, no. If there should ever be another general election I can still vote for the politicians of one or other of the Ulster parties. But they no longer have any say in how Northern Ireland is to be governed.

Mrs Thatcher has gone over their heads and, in so doing, destroyed its political framework. The future of Northern Ireland will be decided by men with guns in their hands, simply because there will be no one else to do it. "Irish policy is Irish history," said Disraeli, "and I have no faith in any statesman who attempts to remedy the evils of Ireland who is either ignorant of the past or who will not take lessons from it."

Would that the Prime Minister had read this, and thought deeply about it, before signing the agreement. Incidentally, for so shrewd a politician, she believed that she could solve the Ulster problem where Gladstone, Asquith and Lloyd George signally failed.

There is, however, one possible way out of the Irish morass into which she has plunged herself and her party. She might allow the Conservatives to fight elections in Northern Ireland, and urge the Labour Party to do the same. There is no other way in which the rule of Tom King and Nicholas Serota can be made democratic or even legal in the province. At present it is under colonial rule, since no one living here is even permitted to join either of these parties, a fact which is probably not known to most people in Britain.

Neither the British nor the Irish political establishment, for their own good reasons, want equal British citizenship, and on occasion they try to censor discussion of it. But equal citizenship is a civil right, and they have no answer to it. Moreover, it would offer us a way out of our sterile sectarian politics, a way honourable to both communities and one placing no bar on their ultimate aspirations.

Let no English politician point a finger of scorn at our sectarian parties while we are denied it. The author is Reader in Irish History at Queen's University, Belfast.

Woodrow Wyatt

Why it must be Nimrod

Some £960 million has already been spent on the programme to equip 11 Nimrod aircraft with the GEC Avionics airborne early warning system (AEW). If the government decides next month to buy the Boeing Awacs system from America this will be money down the drain. Awacs is an elderly system. It originated in 1960, definition studies were completed in 1968 and the first operational flight was in 1976.

GEC admit to early problems with transmitter and system integration, now generally agreed to be overcome, and are confident that AEW could be fully operational next year if the go-ahead is given. It would have been ready sooner, despite the development problems, if the contract had not been on a cost plus basis. This meant time-wasting bureaucratic procedures to upgrade the inadequately funded testing facilities and to double the power of the computer needed to drive the system.

Later technology has enabled GEC's AEW to collocate the massive information from the radar sweeps about twice as fast as Awacs can, thus giving aircraft - whether land-based or already in flight - crucial extra time to pursue and destroy the target. This newer technology also enables Nimrod to detect targets moving more slowly relative to its own speed than the Boeing by a factor of four. To begin with this meant that AEW saw so many more objects than Awacs that the screens blurred; now it can instantly remove the "clutter" and identify the enemy target. AEW is less likely to miss targets because, being later in the field, it has much more scope for further improvements.

The Awacs system weighs more than 10 tons, which is why it requires a huge Boeing to contain it. The GEC radar weighs only four tons, allowing it to be carried in smaller aircraft like Nimrod and the Lockheed Hercules. This gives it greater export potential than Awacs because countries needing an airborne early warning system will prefer the lighter and cheaper AEW.

Export potential is estimated at around £5 billion, which could be shared between GEC and Lockheed and also bring to

Marshall of Cambridge, experts in Hercules conversion. Obviously there will be no export potential for AEW if the RAF does not buy it because overseas customers will assume that it is not the best: another gratuitous present to US industry.

Only in Britain could a government thus have between buying home and buying foreign. The French would put our obsession with buying foreign into the same class as our obsession with the minor sexual peccadilloes of politicians, and laugh accordingly.

If the GEC AEW is abandoned more than 2,500 jobs will be lost. We shall be out of an increasingly important technology forever. The £960 million already spent includes the employment of research teams who have collected uniquely valuable knowledge and who, once dispersed, could not be readily reassembled.

Awacs, with its eight Boeings, would cost a minimum of \$1,000 million. Completing the Nimrod AEW programme would cost around half. There is no serious doubt that GEC can complete AEW, particularly as it must pay a substantial penalty if it does not. When it was allowed to have a fixed price target GEC speeded up tremendously, freed to spend money on development as it thought fit without time-wasting discussions with the Ministry of Defence.

Boeing is making extravagant offers to buy in Britain if its system is accepted. But it could not immediately offset the jobs lost by GEC. Suggestions from Boeing that British firms would somehow be given preference in other defence work for the USA, organized by Boeing must be misleading as such purchases would be subject to Washington's inspection of tenders and known preference for US suppliers over foreigners.

Naturally Boeing would like Britain to abandon the technology involved in AEW and the potential from it for further airborne early warning systems with their growing civilian applications. It would be a classic case of selling our birthright for a mess of pottage. It is not denied that Awacs can do more or less what the RAF has at last decided it requires, but it cannot do it as cost effectively as GEC AEW.

I am no expert but I believe that when George Younger, the Defence Secretary, and his RAF experts next week see in flight the demonstration which I saw this week at GEC Avionics at Radlett they will agree that AEW now works brilliantly. It is pointless to expect people to buy British if the government were to refuse to do so even when British is best.

Michael Kinsley

A bad attack of social anaemia

It's rare for a work of social philosophy to have an immediate practical impact. But The Gift Relationship, by Richard Titmuss of the London School of Economics, published in 1971, changed the way blood was collected and distributed in the United States. Titmuss compared the British system of voluntary blood donation with that in America where system in which, at the time, about a third of the blood supply was bought for cash. He concluded that the voluntary system was both morally superior and more practical because transfused blood in America caused four times as many cases of hepatitis as in Britain.

Titmuss argued that offering money for blood attracts poorer, sicker donors and induces them to lie about their health. And the profit motive induces the commercial blood bank itself to cut corners in quality control. Largely because of the influence of Titmuss's book, the US government took steps to discourage commercial blood banks. "Cash blood" now accounts for barely 2 per cent of US blood supply. But there has been an intellectual reaction. Titmuss was blood as a metaphor for the corruptions of capitalism. Lately, market-oriented scholars have been chipping away at his thesis. What is so altruistic about giving blood, and thereby denying someone the chance to earn \$50 who needs the moral frisson? Blood banks are a government-supervised cartel. The best guarantee of efficiency and quality in blood, as in any other commodity, would be a competitive free market.

Now a third system of blood collection is starting to spread, without benefit of philosophy. This is so-called "autologous" blood, which means putting aside your own blood for your own personal use. Last week it was given the seal of approval by the American Medical Association. The immediate cause of this development is, of course, Aids. There are few things less worth worrying about than catching Aids from a blood transfusion. Since March 1985, all American blood has been tested for Aids antibodies. The test is not foolproof, since the antibodies don't develop until a few months after a person is infected. But after the use of 12 million units of tested blood, there is only one known case of a recipient contracting Aids. Authoritative estimates of the risk range from one in 250,000 to one in a million.

To put this in perspective, an American has a one in 40 million chance of dying in an accident for every mile he drives a car. If it's five miles each way to the hospital and he makes four round trips to store blood in advance of an operation, his chance of being killed on the road starts to approach the risk of getting Aids if he doesn't bother. So why is the medical establishment encouraging autologous blood? In part to increase the total blood supply. In part because there are other dangers from donated blood, primarily hepatitis. Although no one is in a panic about it, an American's chance of dying from hepatitis introduced by a blood transfusion is about one in 2,500 - far greater than the chance of getting Aids. But the hepatitis risk has been there all along, and no one was pushing autologous blood very hard until now. In part, then, the medical establishment is pandering to Americans' chronic inability to think rationally about risk.

The larger risk in all this is the erosion of the voluntary system. Another ominous trend is the growth of so-called "directed donations," in which friends and relatives collect blood for a specific recipient. Doctors argue that this blood is no safer than the common pool, and possibly less safe since donors may be under social pressure to hide sexual and drug habits. An even crazier development is the re-emergence of commercial blood banks - not to buy blood, but to charge you a fee for taking your blood and freezing it (an approach recommended by President Reagan). Doctors protest in vain that when blood is needed it is likely to be either in an emergency, with no time to get the frozen supply, or for elective surgery, with plenty of time to store fresh blood. But reason is taking a back seat.

The spread of autologous and directed blood is a characteristic development of the Reagan era - a narrowing of the sense of community from society as a whole to one's own friends, family, and self. Economically, it's a different kind of step backward. If commercial blood is a metaphor for efficient capitalism, and voluntary blood a metaphor for selfish socialism, autologous blood is a metaphor for over-capitalist self-efficiency, where every family gets its own food and made its own clothes. Life has improved since then. Philosophers agree that exchange, whether the capitalist bargain or the socialist gift, makes for greater prosperity and happiness.

The author is editor of New Republic.

Stardom, Soviet style

As a principal singer with the Bolshoi Theatre, Galina Vishnevskaya was at the top of Moscow society. In 1978 she and her husband, the cellist and conductor Mstislav Rostropovich, were deprived of their citizenship and now live in the West. In conversation with George Urban, she discusses the privileges and ideological pressures facing artists in the Soviet Union

George Urban: Let me put it to you that the vessels of spiritual success in Soviet society may very well be people like yourself: artists, especially musicians, who can say things through their pianos and singing and painting that no one else can.

Galina Vishnevskaya: I agree with you entirely. I felt to be that symbol with great intensity when I sang Leonora in Beethoven's *Fidelio* - the very first time it was put on the stage in the Soviet Union. I wasn't at first quite conscious of that symbol in the sense in which you have just expressed it, but as the rehearsals went on I realized more and more distinctly that this was a liberation-opera and it was about us in Soviet society.

The words I was singing about freedom, the conquest of injustice and oppression were directly addressed to my audiences and I was the person entrusted by the music to impart them. There I was, like Jeanne d'Arc, standing on the stage of the world, calling on the people to release those unjustly imprisoned and punish the wicked. It was a moment that changed my life.

Did the Soviet audiences realize that *Fidelio* was about their fate - about the fate of their mothers and sisters who had been in the camps by the million?

No, they did not. In Moscow the sort of people who went to the Bolshoi were not your men and women of culture. They tended to be people who had business in Moscow and felt it was good form to be seen at the Bolshoi, or men and women given tickets ex officio and were more or less sent to the opera. They were often quite irritated by the music which they didn't understand.

But it wasn't only the people who didn't feel *Fidelio's* sharp relevance to the state of society in Stalin's Russia, the party and the government didn't either.

In Russia, operatic productions go through various stages of censorship. At each stage the message, the decor, the diction and so on are examined for political suitability. *Fidelio* passed every stage of censorship. No one felt that Beethoven was addressing the Soviet oppressed masses.

Did the other singers and musicians feel that they were performing dissident music? By the time it came to the first night most of them felt that this was a daring enterprise. After all, *Fidelio* had never been performed in the Soviet Union, and here we were, one year after the great leader's death, putting it on the stage with our best forces. But they didn't think we were in danger, and we weren't, because the people's finer senses had been too dulled to pick up what Beethoven was saying.

But you started rehearsing *Fidelio* while Stalin was still alive. Clearly the authorities did not expect that it would attract his displeasure. Why didn't they? There was a rumour in Moscow

that Stalin admired Beethoven the way he admired everything spectacular and exalted. But my personal feeling is that he could tell what a straight play was about - a dihering prince or a tearful king (as in *Leah*) were clearly not to his taste - but he was less sure about music.

But one can think of another explanation. A believing communist audience could have persuaded itself that *Fidelio* was about the Liberation of Man as envisaged by Lenin. . . there is no limit to the perversion of the human mind and to wishful thinking.

Did you apply the same professional skills and enthusiasms to unwanted parts as you did to *Fidelio* or *Aida*? Yes, I did. Often I had to appear in some ghastly Soviet opera - Muradeli's *October* or Derzhinsky's *The Fate of Man* - where the music was poor and the propaganda worse. But I was forced to sing or else would not be allowed to appear in the parts I loved or to go abroad. Once you accepted the fact that you had to

Albert Hall before the concert began and more when the Soviet musicians entered the hall. We were appalled by what our government had done. As soon as the last sounds died away I rushed backstage. I found him waiting for me, trembling, with tears in his eyes. We left at once. Outside the crowd silently parted to allow us to pass. Without looking left or right, we went to our car. Somehow we felt we were criminals ourselves.

Benjamin Britten wrote his *War Requiem* specifically with you in mind in the soprano part. Yet you were not allowed to leave the Soviet Union to sing it. You see, Britten's *Requiem* was going to be given its first performance at the ceremonial consecration of Coventry Cathedral; and there was the rub. Coventry had been destroyed by the Luftwaffe and rebuilt with German money. Our leaders didn't like that. When I went to see Ekaterina Furzeva, our corrupt Minister of Culture, she explained that the cathedral should have been left to stand as a monument to the horrors of fascism.

What is your own explanation of the ban? Britten's *Requiem* is a profound and moving warning against the futility of war - any war. Worse, the reconsecration of the cathedral was threatening to undo some of the bitterness between the German and British peoples, and the Soviet ambition was to keep the British and Germans hating one another. How could that be achieved with Galina Vishnevskaya of the Bolshoi Theatre praying for "rest eternal" and "light eternal" to "shine upon the souls" of all the fallen.

Then there was another ideological snag. The Soviet government keeps the public in a state of permanent mobilization. "Peace" is a Soviet prerogative - "war" threatens to come from the Western side only. Anti-war propaganda is, in the Soviet view, a Soviet monopoly. Coventry threatened to break it.

You had, as you tell us in your book, a curious contretemps with one of Lenin's heirs, Nikolai Alexandrovich Bulganin, Marshal of the Soviet Union and Prime Minister at the time. He was, not to put too fine a point on it, strongly attracted by your charm and your singing and tried to win your favours. Unfortunately for the prime minister, you had just got married to Stava Rostropovich.

Bulgarnin was very upset because I

had just been snatched from under his nose by an unknown cellist much younger than himself. His courting was crude and passionate. He would send me his adjutants with carloads of flowers; the invitations to dine with him privately would pour in; he would telephone to urge me to sing at some reception or other or would get the Minister of Culture to persuade me if he couldn't.

You were a member of a charmed circle throughout your Soviet career. Was the circle charming too? I found them to be a closely knit circle of ordinary power-conscious men of crude manners, sparse education, a worm's eye view of the larger world and unspeakable conceit. They were the tip of the Mafia and they didn't make much



Rostropovich: tears over the invasion of Czechoslovakia

of an attempt to conceal it. Their charm was not immediately obvious, but their power was and so was their addiction to alcohol. The number of times I had to sing to the chomping jaws of our drunken leaders is too many to remember.

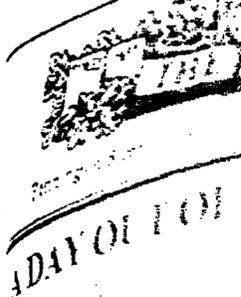
Soviet society takes great pride in "communist morality" which is Victorian and prissy by our standards. I find it surprising that the man who was prime minister in that society should have pressed his case quite so blatantly in front of your husband.

Ah, but he was the chairman of the Council of Ministers! He was our master and the rest of us were serfs. That was his basic attitude to Stava and myself. We were, in fact, lucky. Under Stalin my husband would have been sent to the Gulag or handed to the executioner.

Stalin made the famous remark that communists were "special people", but probably he didn't quite mean it in the sense in which you have depicted the Soviet ruling class. They are indeed "special people". Seventy years ago they occupied our land and have kept electing and re-electing themselves ever since. Their slogans are our new icons, their wishes our commands. They are "special" in the way all history's tyrants were special to the people who were unlucky enough to fall into their hands.

A longer version of this interview is to appear in Encounter.

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A DAY OUT OF THE COUNTRY

Mrs Thatcher's arrival at Camp David today must seem like an intrusion into private life as the inquest starts on arms sales to Iran. But it is to be hoped that such overtones are not allowed to jeopardise a meeting which has much more pertinent points on the agenda.

President Reagan has, at best, been extremely ill-advised. But although critics have not been slow to point to the ironies in the American position, there can be no serious doubt over the continuation of Washington's firm line against terrorism. If there were, then his decision to adopt economic sanctions against Syria (partly as a gesture of solidarity to Britain) must surely have removed them.

Of course, the White House has reasons of its own to be tough towards President Assad, not the least being Syria's hand in exposing the secret dealings with Iran. Whatever embarrassment this affair is causing President Reagan, he and Mrs Thatcher emerge very much on the same side.

Whether they will find themselves standing four-square on the other issues dominating the Prime Minister's transatlantic away-day is another matter. There is still great need for clarification of the precise American position on arms control and Europe following last month's summit in Reykjavik - and Mrs Thatcher is best placed to do the job. It was she, after all, who on her last-but-one visit to Camp David laid down the four conditions for British support for the president's Strategic Defence Initiative.

In the first place, she should make clear European misgivings over the prospect of a zero-zero deal on Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces (INF). There is concern (not least among the US military) that this would leave Western Europe dangerously exposed to the superior conventional forces of the Soviet Union. With INF Europe has an outward and visible sign of American protection. From the European point of view the

so-called "interim deal" which would leave 100 missiles based on either side, would be a more comfortable arrangement. But if the zero option came about, the allies would have only themselves to blame. Largely for purposes of internal politics, they have constantly called upon the Reagan administration to demonstrate the seriousness of its commitment on arms control, not always specifying between prudent and imprudent measures in this regard. Accordingly, they publicly supported zero option when it was first proposed in 1981 - not thinking for one moment that the Russians at any stage might say "yes".

Moreover, there are many American Congressmen who suspect, not without reason, that the Europeans are reluctant to wave farewell to the American missiles because they would then feel obliged to spend more on conventional forces of their own. Britain has actually reaffirmed its support for the zero option since Reykjavik (albeit on conditions such as banning shorter-range nuclear weapons which would probably make the package unacceptable to the Soviet Union.) But however perverse it might make Europeans appear in Washington, the Prime Minister should make sure that this time the President is in no doubt about allied doubts.

Secondly, she should spell out British concern over Trident. Whether President Reagan agreed at Reykjavik to ban all nuclear weapons or simply nuclear missiles over a 10-year period, this Government must view the prospect with unease. It raises once again the prospect of leaving Western Europe unprotected by a nuclear umbrella. It would almost certainly preclude the supply of Trident missiles by the United States to Britain. It should be Mrs Thatcher's aim today to obtain from the President an explicit public guarantee that Trident will remain available as long as the British Government wants it.

These contingencies are, of course, unlikely to come about in the near future, if at all. The Soviet condition for doing anything big on arms control is American abandonment of SDI - beyond the research stage anyway. As President Reagan's determination to retain SDI is receiving increasing support from American public opinion, it looks as if things will stay very much as they are for the next two years.

The other area which must concern the Prime Minister today is the apparent determination of the White House to go ahead with plans to break out of the constraints of the Salt-2 treaty. The imminent modification of the 131st B-52 bomber to carry air-launched cruise missiles should breach the treaty which has been observed (more or less) by both superpowers since 1979. The White House protests that the Soviet side has already broken it by, among other things, developing two new ICBMs instead of one.

The US case cannot be lightly dismissed. But the Americans must ask themselves whether it is in anyone's advantage to start a new stage in the arms race. Mrs Thatcher has already made known British unease, so far without very much impact. The Americans might be more amenable to European anxieties on the score of breaching SALT if Western Europe in general had shown the concern about Soviet violations that the British government has sometimes expressed.

Mrs Thatcher is well placed to repeat allied reservations about all these issues if only because British support for the broad objectives of US policy remains strong. It is arguably European emphasis on arms control that has led President Reagan to go rather further than anyone might have hoped for - still less expected. But this kind of transatlantic misunderstanding needs correcting. The job should give Mrs Thatcher an extremely busy day away from home.

A FIGURE-HAPPY GOVERNMENT

The Government's election preparations took another step forward this week with the announcement of an encouraging batch of figures on the economy. These showed some recovery in output, a significant fall in unemployment and no increase in inflation.

By far the most important, at least politically, is the fall in the number out of work. October's figures show the third successive fall in a row, which can be said to mark the transformation of a fluctuation into a trend. Much of the improvement is the result of the Government's various special employment and training measures. But there is also some evidence of a revival in the economy as exports begin to take advantage of the gradual increase in demand from oil-importing countries. Manufacturing output shot up 1.2 per cent in September alone, though the intervening dip left it little higher than a year earlier. Even if there remains plenty of scope for increasing productivity, growth sustained at this rate would create a good many more jobs.

Yesterday's figures on retail prices are less dramatic but better than expected with inflation unchanged at 3 per cent. There is some further increase to come, reflecting the fall in the pound and the rise in mortgage rates. At present, however, there does not appear to be any serious threat to the Government's record on inflation this side of the election.

While these statistics gave the Government a good deal of comfort, the reefs lurking in the way of its election strategy also surfaced this week. The pound went through a giddy two days as the foreign exchange market reassessed recent developments in the Government's economic policy.

The contrast between policy in Britain and in Germany has been particularly stark recently. An election also looms there. But although the pressure on the Deutschmark has been mostly upward, the Germans have not sought to resist higher interest rates but instead have allowed them to drift up. As to fiscal policy, the Germans - far from adding 3½ per cent to public spending

next year - have just cut it by nearly 1 per cent. No wonder the markets have long concluded that the mark is a sounder currency to hold than the pound.

The Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, made it clear at the weekend that he would not hesitate to defend the pound by raising interest rates if that proved necessary. It may well prove necessary. The Government's message is that raising public spending next year by about £5 billion does not imply any relaxation of fiscal prudence and that borrowing next year will be consistent with the existing financial strategy. The markets can be forgiven for a degree of scepticism.

For the time being, the pound is still significantly above recent levels. This weekend's meeting of the price committee of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries could provide further support if oil producers agree on a strategy to bring oil prices somewhere near to the Saudi target of \$18 a barrel. If events turn out differently, however, the Government cannot afford to let sterling drop much lower.

FOURTH LEADER

It is generally agreed that a cat may look at a king. But may a rat look at a Queen? This question is less abstract than it sounds, because the thing could happen at any moment. Her Majesty has been obliged to send for rat-catchers, for the rodents are, it is announced, infesting the park at Sandringham, tempted by the leavings of the picnicers.

If we may say so without giving offence, Her Majesty is on a hiding to nothing. The rat (the kind she has, if it is the common black rat, is correctly named *Rattus rattus*, presumably because its first ancestor stammered) has survived every attempt in history to eradicate him, and although we are sure that a loyal heart beats in the breast of every one of her rat-catchers, who will strive to rid her of this turbulent beast, they will fail.

They will put down poison, and the rats will gobble it up, licking the last drops off their whiskers with impudent relish; baffled, the rat-catchers will

try blocking up the holes in which they lurk, only to find that the rats have recently done a moonlight flit, murmuring "If you knows of a better 'ole, go to it"; dogs, ferrets, ultrasonic devices, smoke - useless, every one, against the rats' instinct for survival, which for thousands of years has seen empires even greater than ours wax and wane, leaving only the rats to scamper about in the ruins.

Nowadays, moreover, you can't get a good Pied Piper for love or money, though if there is one reading these lines, we can give him an absolute assurance that there would be no repetition of the unfortunate events that took place on the first occasion; his fee would be paid in full the moment the job was finished, and there might even be a Royal Warrant to follow. It is true that

Hamelin town's in Brunswick. By famous Hanover city... but we can set Her Majesty's mind at rest; the rats were here

long before her Hanoverian ancestors, and any suspicion that they stowed away on the ship bringing King George the First to England can therefore be confidently dismissed.

Dismissing the rats, however, will be a more difficult matter. The Duke of Wellington got rid of a similar plague for Queen Victoria ("Try sparrows-hawks, Ma'am"), but eagles roosting in every tree at Sandringham might raise more problems than they solved. Of course, Her Majesty could appeal to the original offenders to take away every crumb, but when it comes to tenacity, the rats could take lessons from the picnicers. There was also the MP who declared "I smell a rat - we must nip it in the bud", but there is no record of how he proposed to do it. Does the Prince of Wales do James Cagney impersonations? If so, there might be a chance, if he were willing to wander about the grounds calling out the famous words: "You dirty rat, come out and fight!"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A challenge to the Unionists

From Mr Hugh Munro
Sir, Your editorial of November 10 calls on Ulster Unionists to abandon their present negative policies and to begin to exert influence in such Northern Irish political institutions as exist.

But what if Unionism is an essentially Protestant political force, which can only act positively if it is given the task of governing Northern Ireland in its own right without reference to the Nationalist majority - and, if this is denied, becomes totally negative, because it cannot engage in compromise without disintegrating, thus ceasing to be an effective movement? All available evidence points to this.

Northern Ireland was set up to be the political expression of a local Protestant majority. The present policy is to maintain the province in being, but to do so while awaiting that majority frantically expressing itself politically in the only way it can.

Britain can only continue to justify her sovereignty for as long as Unionism stays in being; yet British politicians are endlessly urging Unionists to abandon their sullen negativity and embark on compromise policies which would destroy Unionism.

Can we - dare we - begin to consider that Mr Charles Haughey may be right; that Northern Ireland, considered as a separate political unit, makes no sense and that all the turmoil and bloodshed of the past 15 years have continued because those in office in Britain or Ireland did not dare face that brutal, necessary fact? Yours faithfully,
HUGH MUNRO,
1 St. Kevin's Park, Darry,
Dublin 6,
Republic of Ireland,
November 11.

Funding the arts

From the Chairman of the Council of Regional Arts Associations
Sir, Claus Moser does the arts in Britain no favour by special pleading for the Opera House (report, November 12). Of course we want to see a flourishing Covent Garden, but the problems Sir Claus and his colleagues are facing are being faced throughout the country by every arts organization I know.

Special treatment of Covent Garden will only make it worse for everyone else, including opera elsewhere. Let Sir Claus fight for the arts, not just for special privileges.

Britain is getting far better arts than it deserves for the level of public investment the Government is making. The risk now is that hard-won successes will be brought to nothing, not only at the Garden but throughout the country. Yours faithfully,
ROBIN GUTHRIE, Chairman,
The Council of Regional Arts Associations,
Linton Lodge,
13A Clifton Road,
Winchester, Hampshire,
November 12.

Outlook uncertain

From Mr Reg Tait
Sir, I doubt whether Miss Susan Hill's predilection for discussing the weather with the help of a French phrase book (November 8, 11) is now widely shared. In the days when postillions were struck by lightning and tweeds were more in evidence than bikinis, the purpose of Continental travel was cultural.

Now that air conditioning and refrigeration have removed its disadvantages, reliable warm weather has become the main *raison d'être* of travel in France. Reliability has always been boring. Yours truly,
REG TAIT,
Four Winds,
Fobble Hill Road,
Betchworth,
Surrey,
November 12.

BBC under fire

From Mr Max Krell
Sir, The former Chairman of the Conservative Party, Mr John Selwyn Gummer (November 8), laments what he calls the BBC's total inability to apologise: "if only it could occasionally say sorry, it could leave infallibility to the only other institution which claims it". Mr Gummer does not mention the name of the other institution. Presumably he is referring to Mrs Thatcher's Government. Yours faithfully,
MAX KRELL,
13 Leamington Road Villas, W11,
November 11.

In common currency

From Mr John Keyworth
Sir, I am writing concerning the recent correspondence in your columns (October 4, 13, 18, 27, November 4, 10) about the earliest use of the £ sign.

When, in July 1694, the public subscribed for Bank of England stock the would-be stockholders, or their attorneys, made the entry themselves in the bank's books. Many of the entries - the subscribers numbered over 1,200 - include a pound sign.

When it is used invariably precedes the amount in figures and, consisting of the letter '£' topped and tailed with small flourishes and a horizontal line drawn through, is in a form which would be easily recognisable to the man in the street today.

Further evidence of the currency of this symbol is provided by the proof of a proposed Bank of England £5 note, engraved in 1694; the note bears a pound sign, but in this case it is above the figure amount. Unfortunately it is unclear whether the positioning is stylistic or merely due to lack of space.

That this note displayed a pound sign is of great significance to the current debate because it hardly seems likely that the bank's directorate would have contemplated allowing an unfamiliar symbol to be used on the bank's promissory notes.

This is further reinforced by the existence of a cheque which is also in the bank's museum. It is dated January 7, 1660/1, and carries a clearly discernible pound sign preceding the figured amount. (Drawn by Nicholas Vanacker on John Morris of the partnership

Putting the record straight on tapes

From the President of the Performing Right Society:

Sir, Hitherto I have never managed to peruse an article by Bernard Levin to his ultimate conclusion. But today (November 10) I have pressed on, searching in vain for one missing word. That word is composer, without whose efforts there would be nothing to tape. Society has always put technological change - be it compact disc or satellite dish - ahead of original invention.

Unlike other commodities, music has neither artistic nor commercial value until it is heard. One of the ways it can be heard is through recordings. From the sale of their records, many composers derive a large slice of their income.

Mr Levin may be unaware that last year of the Performing Right Society's 16,000 writer members, over 10,500 received less than £250. Later they receive a share of the profits of the recordings they have made.

Recently, in my local music library, I stood in a queue at a check-out desk reminiscent of that at Marks and Spencer; only the wire baskets were missing. It was when my eye lit upon a borrower loaded with a clutch of original cast recordings (including my own) that I ventured to enquire whether he intended to tape them. "Only those that I like," came the crushing reply.

At this point I recalled a remark by my late collaborator and friend, A.P. Herbert, ever vigilant on behalf of his fellow writers: "Je vais écrire une lettre au Times".

Yours faithfully,
VIVIAN ELLIS (President),
Performing Right Society,
Garrick Club,
Garrick Street, WC2,
November 10.

From Mr Robert Hardcastle
Sir, Having worked for the past 20 years or so as an independent producer of recorded educational material, I was delighted to read Bernard Levin's spirited attack on the proposed tape levy.

Not only is he right to draw attention to the absurdities and injustices in practice, but the point must be made that the proposals are also disastrously wrong in principle. For they cut right against the grain of English law by presuming guilt unless and until innocence can be proved.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT HARDCASTLE,
Lawn Cottage,
Camden Park,
Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Front-line stability

From Mr Martin Zinkin
Sir, Your assertion ("War psychosis", November 10), that "The political wells of southern Africa have long been poisoned by black Africa's loathing of apartheid" is akin to suggesting that the political climate in pre-war Europe was adversely affected by Jewish concern about anti-Semitism.

What you call "short sharp shocks" were unjustified attacks on the sovereign territories of Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. In these lands people have been machine-gunned in their beds, Mozambican women and children were killed in an attack on a jam factory, and in a helicopter gunship raid on Zambia several members of a football team were murdered. (On the first of these raids one South African soldier was killed. His helmet was decorated with swastikas.)

However, it is the long-term campaign of destabilization mounted against the front-line states by Pretoria that is most damaging to the region in political, economic and human terms.

Impartial observers confirm that the Nkomati accord of 1984 was honoured by Mozambique, whereas the Gorongoso documents (published September, 1985), show that Pretoria did not pause in its financing, training and supplying of the Mozambique National Resistance, and that senior South African Defence Force officers visited MNR bases in Mozambique after the accord was signed.

The basic problem in southern Africa, which your editorial fails to recognise, is not the attitudes of other African countries towards apartheid, but that of apartheid itself. The hope of peace and stability in the region whilst racists hold power in South Africa is as forlorn as the hope for peace when the Nazis held power in Germany.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN ZINKIN,
45 Anson Road, N7,
November 10.

Getting to the top

From Miss Barbara Manning
Sir, At the risk of being shot down in flames, may I suggest that the lack of success of British tennis players at the top flight of international competition is due, purely and simply, to a lack of personal drive and application?

One has read of the hours and hours of dedicated practice which (for example) Chris Lloyd put in, under the hot Florida sun, during her formative years.

Obviously a player must have the basic talent to start with, but, as I know only too well from my experience as a musician, unless you are a complete phenomenon, the 1-2 per cent of talent required is wasted if you do not back it up with the necessary 98-99 per cent of blood, sweat and tears (with as few of the latter as possible).

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA MANNING,
North Wing,
Greenhill,
Bramfield, Nr Hertford.

Reading lessons

From Mr Peter Emmerson
Sir, One aspect of the decline in reading among young people, which the Secretary of State for Education does not mention (feature, November 7), is the relative unpopularity of English literature as an examination subject among boys. Despite our strenuous efforts to recruit them, out of more than 350 A-level students at this college less than a quarter are boys.

Crude sexual stereotypes are difficult to dislodge from the minds of young and old alike. But the society that fails to do so when they decree that its young men can do without the civilizing effect of its great literature is a society that faces a bleak future indeed.

Yours faithfully,
PETER EMMERSON,
Solihull Sixth Form College,
Widney Manor Road,
Solihull,
West Midlands,
November 11.

of his apoplectic fit and consider one question: if an industry which is based on copyright cannot earn in full and fair measure from those copyrights how can it continue to provide what the public wants, in the full variety that it is wanted?

While the enjoyment and usage of music, especially in the home, has increased greatly in the past few years, sales of recordings have declined sharply. To quote a recent survey, "six times as much music is being taped in the UK annually than is being bought on record and pre-recorded tape". (Music Week, November 8). Yet Mr Levin damns the record industry as "one of the richest and greediest of businesses". How can anyone thus take his seriously?

We, as a company, like the record industry as a whole, have a right and a duty to ensure that all income legitimately due to us is collected and properly used. We cannot collect royalties from individuals copying our recordings in their homes, so the levy system has been devised.

It is the blank tape buyer who does the copying. It is the blank tape buyer who should pay the royalty. And, incidentally, market research has very recently shown that the majority of the public agree; happily they seem to have a keener sense of fairness than Mr Levin.

Yours faithfully,
PETER ANDRY, President,
International Classical Division,
EMI Music,
30 Gloucester Place, W1.

From Mr David Best
Sir, Looking at the cause of "illegal" taping from records may be more fruitful than treating the symptoms.

One does not need much of a musical ear when listening via an up-to-date audio system to tell the difference between a commercially pre-recorded tape and one made "illegally" from a new record on to a high quality "blank" tape. Commercially produced tapes are recorded hundreds at a time, at many times normal tape-running speeds on to the cheapest quality tape. The result is an inferior product. This pre-recorded tape is then sold at around the same price as a record.

Surely if commercially recorded tapes were produced at the quality levels demanded by an increasingly discerning public a large element of the illegal taping problem would disappear, and with it discussions about the blank tape levy?

Yours sincerely,
DAVID BEST,
The Garden Flat,
15 Westgate Terrace, SW10,
November 11.

From Mr Robert Hardcastle
Sir, Having worked for the past 20 years or so as an independent producer of recorded educational material, I was delighted to read Bernard Levin's spirited attack on the proposed tape levy.

Not only is he right to draw attention to the absurdities and injustices in practice, but the point must be made that the proposals are also disastrously wrong in principle. For they cut right against the grain of English law by presuming guilt unless and until innocence can be proved.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT HARDCASTLE,
Lawn Cottage,
Camden Park,
Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

From Mr Peter E. Andry
Sir, May I ask Bernard Levin to pause for a moment in the midst

of his apoplectic fit and consider one question: if an industry which is based on copyright cannot earn in full and fair measure from those copyrights how can it continue to provide what the public wants, in the full variety that it is wanted?

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Clayton and Morris, money-scriveners, it is, incidentally, one of the earliest known cheques). Perhaps the origins of the pound sign preceding the amount (in figures at least) lie in the more esoteric regions of accountancy? Or is the explanation quite simply that its conventional position obviates any possibility of its being mistaken for a figure when accounts are being cast up?

The horizontal line (or nowadays lines) drawn through the sign to indicate a contraction of the Latin word *libra* might also have served as an additional safeguard in this respect.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KEYWORTH, Curator,
Museum and Historical Research Section,
Bank of England,
Threadneedle Street, EC2,
November 12.

ON THIS DAY

NOVEMBER 15 1922

The British Broadcasting Company, a syndicate of radio manufacturers and the Post Office was formed in October, 1922, on December 30 John (later Lord) Reith took over as its general manager. In that month the number of licences was just over 35,000. On January 1, 1927 the newly-formed British Broadcasting Corporation received its first (10-year) charter when licences numbered over two million.

BROADCASTING BEGUN

FIRST MESSAGES LAST NIGHT.

NEWS SERVICE POLICY.

Broadcasting in this country officially began yesterday, when news bulletins and weather reports were sent out from the London and Manchester stations of the British Broadcasting Company. The erection of the station at the Watton Works of the General Electric Company, Birmingham, is being expedited, and it is hoped to have the station ready for use to-night in sending out the election results. Broadcasting will then take place from three stations, covering a large part of the country. Other stations, not yet ready, are being completed as rapidly as possible.

Sir William Noble, chairman of the Broadcasting Company, outlined his plans to *The Times* yesterday evening. "At the beginning," he said, "broadcasting will be conducted purely from a social point of view. Each evening there will be given a brief synopsis of the world's news, prepared by the four Press agencies who are acting together to supply the company with such a synopsis twice nightly. Then the Meteorological Department of the Air Ministry is supplying us, at any rate, with two weather reports. It may be that we shall arrange for a third report, but that has not yet been fixed up. The first of the two reports will be given directly the station opens, and the other between 9 pm and 10 pm. In addition to this news there will be concerts, instrumental and vocal, and it may be that later we shall arrange for speeches written by popular people to be broadcast."

ELECTION RESULTS

"From a business point of view there may be some comment later, but none is contemplated at present. For the broadcasting of the election results the Press agencies will give us simply an outline - so many Unionists, so many Liberals, so many Loyalists and so on, together with particulars of Mr. Bonar Law, Mr. Asquith and any of the rest. I have told them that they must not go beyond 1 o'clock in the morning, in order not to interfere with any of the newspapers.

"We want to work smoothly with the newspapers, and we want to act in such a way that broadcasting may be an incentive to the public to buy more newspapers. We hope that many people will take up broadcasting who otherwise might not take a great interest in the world's news, and that, by giving them a brief synopsis of events, we shall whet their appetite for news and thus induce them to buy more newspapers. I repeat that we want to do everything possible to help the newspapers and to get them on our side, so that we may be mutually helpful in any way that reason that we are not giving long reports.

"I have stated that broadcasting must stop at 1 a.m., so that we shall not give any information which will not appear in the morning papers. No broadcasting will take place before 5 pm on Thursday, so as not to interfere with the evening papers. We have taken everything into consideration, and we want to avoid anything which would cause irritation."

Asked whether, if broadcasting had started a fortnight ago, summaries of election speeches would have been issued, Sir William Noble said: "No, that would have been usurping the legitimate functions of the Press. We do not want to do that. The whole matter has been thrashed out with the Press agencies, and we have been entirely guided by them."

HINTS TO AMATEURS

Mr. H. Anthony Hankey, ex-Fleet Wireless Officer of the China Squadron, in a broadcasting lecture and demonstration given at the St. Bride Institute, Fleet Street, last night, said that during the last twenty-five years the range of wireless telegraphic signalling had grown from a few yards to twelve thousand miles...

If a person lived one hundred miles from the broadcasting station, it was necessary to possess a more sensitive receiver, such as a multi-valve type, than if one lived within fifty miles, in which case two valves would suffice. Within ten miles a simple crystal receiver would permit of efficient reception. If it was desired to entertain the family by means of a loud speaker, it would be necessary to amplify the received signals with the aid of a couple of valves in addition to the crystal, or to dispense with the crystal altogether and use three valves...

Murky waters

From Dr J. J. Grant
Sir, In the light of the recent disastrous pollution of the Rhine it would seem that Coleridge was particularly prescient when he wrote:

The river Rhine, it is well known
Doth wash your city of Cologne.
But tell me, Nymphs, what power
Divine,
Shall henceforth wash the river
Rhine?

Yours faithfully,
J. J. GRANT,
Tute Barn,
Shincliffe, Durham.

OBITUARY MRS FUMIKO ENCHI Powerful writer in the Japanese tradition

Mrs Fumiko Enchi, the eminent Japanese novelist, playwright and short story writer, died on November 14, at the age of 81. She is known in the anglophone world for her novel Onna-zaka, translated as The Waiting Years in 1971...

RUUDOLF SCHOCK

Rudolf Schock, the noted German tenor, died on November 13, at the age of 71. He came perhaps more than any other singer to be a successor to Taubert, and he built a great reputation in Germany as an operetta singer on stage, on television and in films.

MR PHILIP HENMAN

Mr Philip Henman, a former chairman of the London Chamber of Commerce and founder chairman of the Transport Development Group, died on November 8. He was 86. Philip Sydney Henman was born on December 21, 1899.

EDDIE THOMPSON

Eddie Thompson, who died on November 6 at the age of 61, was known as one of this country's most accomplished jazz pianists. He was born blind in 1925, and started playing the piano while at a Wandsworth school for the blind.

THIERRY LE LURON

Thierry Le Luron, comedian and impersonator, died on October 13. He was 34. He first found fame in France following a television appearance while still a schoolboy.

JUDGE WOOD

His Honour Judge Wood, a circuit judge since 1972, died on November 4, at the age of 65. He first found fame in France following a television appearance while still a schoolboy. He then left school to pursue a career in cabaret.

The slippery subject of truth

In 1911 the great experimental physicist Ernest Rutherford conducted an epoch-making experiment that revolutionized our understanding of the structure of matter. He bombarded a sheet of gold foil with alpha particles and was staggered by the extent to which the particles were deflected through wide angles...

Luncheons

Corporation of London The Duke and Duchess of York The Duke and Duchess of York were the guests of honour at a luncheon given by the Lord Mayor and the Corporation of London at Guildhall yesterday.

Memorial services

Sir Reg Goodwin The Duke of Gloucester, President of the National Association of Boys' Clubs, was represented by Major Nigel Chamberlayne-Macdonald at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir Reg Goodwin held yesterday at All Hallows by the Tower.

Services tomorrow

TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street, E.C.4. 8.30 AM. 11.15 Morning Prayer. 12.30 PM. 7.30 PM. ST. MARTIN'S, Vintry, W.C.2. 8.30 AM. 11.15 Morning Prayer. 12.30 PM. 7.30 PM. ST. ANDREW'S, 10, St. Andrew's Place, W.1. 8.30 AM. 11.15 Morning Prayer. 12.30 PM. 7.30 PM.

COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 14: The Duke of Edinburgh this morning gave the Annual Distinguished Lecture at the European Council and International Schools Annual General Meeting and Conference in Montreux.

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr Daniel Boreuina, 44; Miss Geoffrey Chandler, 64; Miss Penula Clark, 52; Mr André Deutsch, 69; Professor Peter Dickinson, 52; Sir Hugh Greene, 76; Mr Hamish Hamilton, 86; Mr Martin Hammond, 42; Mr Gregor MacKenzie, 64; Mr D. D. Rae, 51; Mr Alwyn Robinson, 57; Major-General J. K. Shephard, 78; Sir Sacheverell Sitwell, 89; Canon Eric Staples, 76; Sir Roger Young, 63.

Dinners

International Law Association Professor Cecil Olmstead, Chairman of the Executive Council of the International Law Association, presided at a dinner held yesterday at the Royal Over-seas League, Lord Wilberforce, Dr Thok-yu Limb, president, and Sir Gordon Sivan, vice-chairman, were among those present.

Marriages

Mr G.E. Dwyer and Miss E.J. Lloyd The marriage took place quietly on Friday, October 31, at St Andrews, Kingsbury, between Mr G.E. Dwyer, son of Mr and Mrs G.E. Dwyer, of Woking, Surrey, and Miss Erica Jayne Lloyd, daughter of Mr B. Lloyd and Mrs A. Lloyd, of London, formerly of Southampton.



MHA advertisement: 'This Christmas have a heart for the elderly in need... share in the cost of caring... This Christmas, in our 35 residential Homes and 14 sheltered housing schemes, MHA will be caring for over 1,400 elderly people.'

Services tomorrow: A detailed list of church services for the following day, including times and locations for various parishes across London and the surrounding areas.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS AND IN MEMORIAM

BIRTHS - On 8th October, to Rose (nee Stanning) and Mickey, a daughter, to Jane Mary Fieda, a sister for Duncan.
MARRIAGES - On November 2, at Gravesend Hospital, to Judith (nee Cummings) and Clive, a son, Jonathan, a brother for Christopher.
DEATHS - On November 13th, after a long illness bravely borne, Mrs. Mary Fieda, a sister for Duncan.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - NEXT SUMMER IN AMERICA - CAMP AMERICA offers teachers, nurses and students over 18 years of age the opportunity to be a camp counsellor for 9 weeks to teach sports, arts and crafts in an American summer camp.
SERVICES - ANCESTRY - Contact the team with the best experience World-wide.
FORSALE - TRANSFORM YOUR HOME FOR XMAS WITH MANDERAK THROWOVERS - This attractive to velvet and plush chairs for half the cost of covers or reupholstery.

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SHELLEY CHERRY Alternative postcard mail via Dateline 39 Riverside Ave, London N12 9AF. Tel: 044 1441/200 1233.
BATTERSEA Village Church, Christmas carols for any occasion. Tel: 01-225 9070.

WANTED - JEWELLERY - Gold, Silver, Diamond unmounted. The prices...
WANTED - EDWARDS, Victoria and an 18th Century large set furniture.
WANTED - EDWARDS, Victoria and an 18th Century large set furniture.

FORSALE - YOU'LL BE FLOORED BY OUR PRICES AT RESISTA CARPETS - Wicanders beautiful natural cork tiles.
FORSALE - A MAGNIFICENT VENETIAN 8 PIECE ROCCO BEDROOM SUITE - Richly carved and painted with velvet upholstery.

TOYOTA CELICA 2.0 GT 1986 (C Reg) - Red, 10,000 miles, 1 owner.
JUMP THE QUEUE X16 2.9 DAMLER SOVEREIGN - Licensed, delivery ready only, low specification, excellent car.

WANTED - JEWELLERY - Gold, Silver, Diamond unmounted. The prices...
WANTED - EDWARDS, Victoria and an 18th Century large set furniture.

RENTALS - LANDLORDS/OCCUPERS - If you have a quality property to let let us about it.
RENTALS - ON FINCHLEY RD NW3 - 4 bed flat, modern, in charming neighbourhood.

RENTALS - SWISS COTTAGE - Holiday let, open Holiday Home! From 1712/86.
RENTALS - BERRY near Windsor, a bedroom farmhouse with secluded garden.

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS - ST JOHN'S WOOD - Clean lady for 1st flr in private house, 2 recs, 2 beds, 1 bath, 1 car.
DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS - GORDON BLEEN Cook to work in Chatterbox, Swiss Alps, for winter season to run cooking services.

Cancer - Together we can beat it. We find over one third of all research for the prevention and cure of cancer in the UK. Help us by sending a donation or make a legacy to: CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN

If you've ever called The Samaritans, please make just one more call. If we've ever helped you, now you can help us to help others. Please call Slough (0753) 32713 or write to: David Evans, The Samaritans, 17 Ukridge Road, Slough SL1 9XU for further details.

RENTALS - SOCIETIES - Flat and house to let throughout the Docklands area.
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DEATHS - BUTTON - On November 13th, after a short illness, The Honorable Julia Dutton of Windrush Manor near Bedford, Oxfordshire, the younger daughter of the late Sir John Dutton of Sherborne.
DEATHS - FISHER - On 13th November 1986, at The Abbey, Amersham, Margaret, wife of the late Robert Fisher, much loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

MEMORIALS - WAR - HOLY - In loving memory of Royal George Herbert Patrick Holt, Royal Armoured Corps, att'd. 9th Lancs. killed in action Italy on November 10th 1944, aged 21.
MEMORIALS - PRIVATE - ERIC WARR, Musician and scholar who died suddenly November 12th 1984. His quiet presence concealed a strength of character and depth of knowledge with a cheerful sense of humour that inspired all who knew him.

THEATRES - HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL - The Phantom of the Opera.
THEATRES - NATIONAL THEATRE - The Wind in the Willows.
THEATRES - NATIONAL THEATRE - The Wind in the Willows.

ART GALLERIES - HAYWARD BEL GALLERY - NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.
ART GALLERIES - NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY - NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.

CINEMAS - BARBICAN - The Great Escape.
CINEMAS - BARBICAN - The Great Escape.

Science report - Fossils may help explain ape origin. By Pearce Wright, Science Editor. Dr Richard Leakey and his mother, Mary, the eminent palaeontologists and anthropologists, have uncovered fossils of two new types of apes which were roaming the shores of what is now Lake Turkana, in Kenya, 17 million years ago.

THEATRES - HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL - The Phantom of the Opera.
THEATRES - NATIONAL THEATRE - The Wind in the Willows.
THEATRES - NATIONAL THEATRE - The Wind in the Willows.

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CINEMAS - BARBICAN - The Great Escape.
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New price record for British artist - By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent. Christie's has confirmed over the past two days that the Edwardian era is now high fashion in the modern British painting field. Sir William Orpen's three-quarter length portrait of Vera Brewster entitled "The Blue Hat" - because she is wearing a striking one - sold for £126,500 (estimate for £30,000-£40,000) to Leggett's, the London dealers. It sets a new auction price record for the artist.

THEATRES - HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL - The Phantom of the Opera.
THEATRES - NATIONAL THEATRE - The Wind in the Willows.
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ART GALLERIES - HAYWARD BEL GALLERY - NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.
ART GALLERIES - NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY - NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY.

Private Advertisers - 01 481 4000. Birth, Marriage and Death Notices - 01 481 3024. Trade Advertisers - 01 481 4481.

President's high-risk diplomacy draws fire

Continued from page 1

paid "ransom" to Iran, but had sent the weapons to gain "access and influence" there and end the Gulf war.

He said he had not violated his own policy against negotiating with terrorists, and had not made concessions to those who held Americans captive in Lebanon.

"We did not - repeat, did not - trade weapons or anything else for hostages, nor will we," he said. "Those who think we have gone soft on terrorism should take up the question with Colonel Gadhafi."

He said the arms were sent in "small amounts" and were modest deliveries; they were of a defensive nature, and "my purpose was to convince Tehran that our negotiators were acting with my authority, to send a signal that the US was prepared to replace the animosity between us with a new relationship."

Mr Reagan also said Congress would be informed now. Yesterday it was announced that he will hold a press conference on Wednesday.

Iran denial of any contacts with America

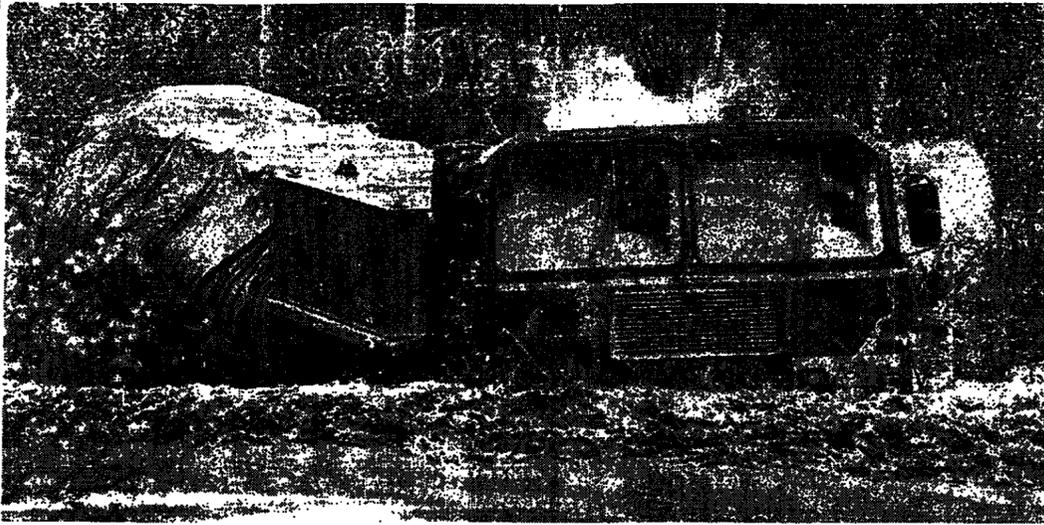
Continued from page 1

their rights," Mr Khamenei said. "We are not asking the United States for ransom. You have to give us our spare parts which are worth millions of dollars and have been paid for under the previous regime."

The statement followed upon a similar suggestion from the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament, Mr Hojatol-Islam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, that the supply of further material paid for during the Shah's rule could persuade Iran to make intercessions with those holding the hostages in Lebanon.

Nevertheless, Mr Khamenei went out of his way to deny any official Iranian involvement with the Americans, let alone negotiations lasting 18 months - the period alluded to by President Reagan.

On the other side of the Greenham wire



Ploughing through the mud, a seemingly unstoppable mobile launch vehicle on exercise inside the base. (Photographs: Chris Harris)



Greenham woman behind the fence: Flight Lieutenant Dawn Hewitt, who has an "awesome responsibility"

By Peter Davenport, Defence Correspondent

After four years of controversy about siting cruise missiles at the RAF airfield near Newbury in Berkshire, the authorities lifted the curtain secrecy yesterday.

It was said Lieutenant Colonel Bob Brus of the United States Air Force, the day for dispelling myths and uncertainties surrounding Greenham Common.

Journalists and television crews were taken on a conducted tour and allowed to talk freely to personnel and inspect the launch and control vehicles making up the convoys that attract so much protest.

The 96 missiles, however, remained out of bounds, stored in six hardened shelters, impenetrable and the real thing: the 501st tactical missile wing consists of six cruise flights based at Greenham. Each flight has four launch vehicles, each capable of carrying four missiles, two mobile launch control centres and 16 other vehicles. Up to 70 personnel man each convoy including 44 security police, some from the RAF regiment.

The chain of command to be activated should the convoys be deployed for real starts with the President of the United States and descends through

Nato - but the final finger on the button belongs to men and women like Flight Lieutenant Mark Carter, Joel O'Bryan and Dawn Hewitt, all aged 24. They are among the launch control officers and it is they who will have to push the green button marked "Execute" on the control panels that would send the missiles winging to predetermined targets in the Soviet Union.

Lieutenant Carter, from West Palm Beach in Florida, explained that the missiles could be fired only after he and a colleague had fed instructions simultaneously into their computer consoles in the mobile launch control centre.

Lieutenant Hewitt was the first woman launch officer to be field-qualified in cruise and is one of two to be stationed in Britain. She volunteered for the programme after finishing an Air Force-sponsored degree in computer sciences at the University of New Hampshire nearly three years ago.

How did she feel about the possibility of launching the missiles in a real war?

"I would do my job. That's all I want to say. I don't want to discuss my emotions," She said, never met any of

the women who continue to protest outside the perimeter wire and had no comment on their views.

Lieutenant O'Bryan, from Brownwood, Texas, added: "The responsibility we have is awesome but it is not a job you would do unless you believed in the reasons for it."

The protesters about cruise continue. Last week, a convoy returning from exercise on Salisbury Plain was ambushed by demonstrators who severed brake pipes.

The commander of the wing, whose motto is "Poised to deter - quick to react", denied that the planned deployment of convoys had been suspended or delayed.

But Colonel John Bacs had a warning: "My concern is that we could get into a serious accident because of the irresponsible action of some demonstrators."

The responsibility for dealing with protesters in peace-time lies with the UK civilian police; military guards travelling with the convoys are not armed.

However, Colonel Bacs said, in times of war or tension it would be "a different ball game".

Letter from Qatar

A Princess at the male feast

When the princes of Arabia entertain other noble princes to a banquet it is the Islamic tradition for women to be excluded from the feasting table.

It was, therefore, a singular honour for the Princess of Wales to be seated at dinner with the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad al-Thani, last night; but it was, after all, her husband's 38th birthday.

The royal travelling circus of the Gulf moved on yesterday from the mountains of Oman to the flat little state of Qatar, which spends a gratifying proportion of its oil revenues on British exports. Originally it had been intended that the Amir should entertain the Prince of Wales, while the Princess was fed in another room by Sheikhha Randa Umm Abdullah, the second most senior of the Amir's wives.

When the Amir learnt of his guest's impending anniversary he invited the Prince and Princess to a joint banquet at his home in the Rayyan Palace outside the capital, Doha.

There were no Qatari women present, only Miss Anne Bockwith-Smith, the Princess's lady in waiting, and the British Ambassador's wife.

The Amir's second most senior wife, having found herself surplus to requirements, took herself off on a shopping trip to London. The Princess looked stunning in a full-length ice-blue dress with diamond necklace and earrings, and appeared at ease as she sat drinking cinnamon coffee before going into a meal of mutton on rice.

Arabian banquets are not quite what they sound. Unlike those in Britain the last for little more than 45 minutes, which is partly explained by the complete absence of speeches or alcoholic drink.

At least the British royal couple are being allowed to spend their nights together. They are staying at the Rumaila Guest Palace, built in the 1950s and home to Mrs Thatcher during her visit here in 1981; but the royal couple

have been also given the use of the Amir's beach villa. The Prince and Princess arrived from Oman in a chartered British Caledonian aircraft, stepping into a hot breeze that caused the Princess to hang on to her hat. Qatari censors attempted to stop the transmission to London of press pictures of the moment, because they thought it showed her in an unflattering light.

They also attempted to stop pictures which, as some press photographers showed members of the official entourage with their eyes closed, one of the Prince of Wales caught in the middle of an ungainly stride, and one of the British Ambassador, Mr Julian Walker, appearing to stumble.

The ban was quickly lifted after Mr Victor Chapman, the Prince's press secretary, intervened and asked for all pictures to be sent unhindered. Qatari officials have been sensitive ever since the publication during the Queen's visit in 1979 of photographs which showed her attending an apparently makeshift and unregal picnic in the desert.

The royal visit to Qatar has its quota of political overtones. Britain is Qatar's major supplier, with exports worth £142 million last year; but the fact that Qatar's modern infrastructure is now largely complete, mean that the figure is expected to drop to £120 million this year.

Yesterday morning the royal couple visited Masrab, an island off Oman, to see the British Eastern Relay Station operated by BBC engineers to help the World Service and External Services, received by satellite from London on the Arabian peninsula and the Indian subcontinent.

Various claims have been made that the installation is, or was, an out-station of GCHQ engaged on ocean surveillance but Mr Peter Lord, the manager, told his visitors yesterday that it was nothing more than an out-station of Bush House.

Alan Hamilton

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Solution to Puzzle No 17,198

C	O	L	O	P	T	E	R	A	S	A	T	A
B	O	M	E	A	N	D	R	I	M	M	E	R
F	A	I	L	E	C	I	E	T	E	R	O	L
I	N	T	E	R	L	O	C	K	I	N	T	H
S	E	M	I	L	I	T	E	S	E	I	E	S
A	S	L	O	P	E	S	U	N	H	E	L	M
F	L	O	P	E	S	I	N	E	T	E	R	O
P	R	I	B	E	S	O	A	S	O	R	T	O
F	L	O	P	E	S	U	N	H	E	L	M	
R	O	M	E	A	N	D	R	I	M	M	E	R
N	O	B	L	I	T	E	N	D	R	O	M	
H	A	N	L	I	N	G	H	O	M	E	R	
M	A	N	I	N	G	H	O	M	E	R		
N	O	B	L	I	T	E	N	D	R	O	M	
N	O	B	L	I	T	E	N	D	R	O	M	
N	O	B	L	I	T	E	N	D	R	O	M	
N	O	B	L	I	T	E	N	D	R	O	M	
N	O	B	L	I	T	E	N	D	R	O	M	
N	O	B	L	I	T	E	N	D	R	O	M	

Solution to puzzle 17,203

A	P	O	X	A	S	S	D	O	F	E	R
V	E	R	E	K	E	K	A	P	P	I	
C	A	T	E	A	T	O	R	P	P	E	R
C	L	E	B	E	R	I	E	R	O		
C	L	E	B	E	R	I	E	R	O		
C	L	E	B	E	R	I	E	R	O		
C	L	E	B	E	R	I	E	R	O		
C	L	E	B	E	R	I	E	R	O		
C	L	E	B	E	R	I	E	R	O		
C	L	E	B	E	R	I	E	R	O		
C	L	E	B	E	R	I	E	R	O		
C	L	E	B	E	R	I	E	R	O		
C	L	E	B	E	R	I	E	R	O		
C	L	E	B	E	R	I	E	R	O		
C	L	E	B	E	R	I	E	R	O		
C	L	E	B	E	R	I	E	R	O		
C	L	E	B	E	R	I	E	R	O		
C	L	E	B	E	R	I	E	R	O		
C	L	E	B	E	R	I	E	R	O		
C	L	E	B	E	R	I	E	R	O		
C	L	E	B	E	R	I	E	R	O		
C	L	E	B	E	R	I	E	R	O		
C	L	E	B	E	R	I	E	R	O		
C	L	E	B	E	R	I	E	R	O		
C	L	E	B	E	R	I	E	R	O		

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,204

A Prize of The Times Atlas of World History will be given for the first three correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: Mrs R. Aspinall, 7 Bell Busk, Skipton, N Yorks; Mr K. B. Roche, 156 Long Lane, Walton, Liverpool; F. J. Skidmore, 44 Queen Street, Wolverhampton.

Name _____
Address _____

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32

- ACROSS
- 1 Characters preceding MP sob for her (5).
 - 2 Fish below end of pier - using these? (5).
 - 3 Dangerously silly way walk takes in road (9).
 - 4 City laid out under big hill. Initially (9).
 - 5 Test match? Final defeat (9).
 - 6 English composer's wrong in bar (5).
 - 7 Not a full house before main book's writer appears (5).
 - 8 Mundane description of traveller in space (9).
 - 9 The rest making upstart live outside (7).
 - 10 Attractive artwork (7).
 - 11 Some day, for it, perhaps? So they say (7).
 - 12 Satisfies finds half the jury bribable (7).
 - 13 Plain black? *Au contraire!* (4,5).
 - 14 Scrounge old coin found in box's compartment (5).
 - 15 Boxer's feat, say, stop moving briefly (5).
 - 16 Veteran bats, e.g. at Lord's (3,6).
 - 17 Cosmetic device? Yes, had owned some (3-6).
 - 18 Took out old hat (5).
 - 19 brass (4,5).
 - 20 Using these? (5).
 - 21 Dangerously silly way walk takes in road (9).
 - 22 Liberal supports what's in text, for instance (7).
 - 23 Country in which I touch down again? (7).
 - 24 Borrow travel book, this one in Spain (5).
 - 25 Are you and I said to lead race? What a disaster (9).
 - 26 Convenient for Hungary's borders (5).
 - 27 Authentic 18th century character (5-8).
 - 28 Publicly supported case, in short, in a 26 (9).
 - 29 From route to Samarkand remove a plant (9).
 - 30 Area inside American bases (5).
 - 31 Flying squad needed to catch this thief? (7).
 - 32 Wood he put round piano (5).
 - 33 Seaside area, say, involved in mass production (5).
 - 34 Appreciate it may be short measure (5).
- Concise Crossword page 17

Today's events

- Royal engagements**
- Princess Anne, Patron, the Royal Lympington Yacht Club, attends their annual dinner, Lympington, Hampshire, 7.45.
 - Princess Margaret leaves Heathrow for New Orleans, 12.50.
- New exhibitions**
- Recent paintings by Helen Firth: The Open Eye Gallery, 75 Cumberland St., Edinburgh: Mon to Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 4 (ends Dec 4).
 - Dr Livingstone, I presume?: the life and work of explorer Henry Morton Stanley; National Museum of Wales, Main Building, Cathays Park, Cardiff: Tues to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5 (ends Jan 25).
 - Recent paintings by Frank Taylor: The Black Boy Gallery, 14 High St, West Wycombe: Mon to Sat 9.30 to 5.30 (ends Nov 29).
 - Under the Cover of Darkness: night prints; DLI Museum & Arts Centre, near County Hall, Durham City: Tues to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Dec 14).
 - Contemporary paintings; Burford Gallery, High St, Burford, Oxon: Mon to Sun 10 to 6 (ends Nov 29).
- Last chance to see**
- Sickert and Thanes; Raunsgate Library Gallery, Guildford, 9.30 to 5.
 - Moore, Hepworth, Rie and Cooper; Cleveland Gallery, Victoria Rd, Middlesbrough, 12 to 7.
- Pursuit of Perfection: Works by Charles Rennie Mackintosh;** Aberdeen Art Gallery, Schoolhill, 10 to 5.
- MUSIC**
- Concert by the Amici Chamber Group; Keysham Parish Church, 8.
 - Concert by the Cambridge Music; Flowerfield Arts Centre, Portswear, 8.
 - Piano recital by Dmitri Alexeev; Elmwood Hall, Queen's University, Belfast, 7.30.
 - Recital by Ursula Snow (violin) and Peter O'Hagan (piano); Brune Park School, Military Road, Gosport, Hants, 7.30.
 - Concert by the Gabrieli Consort and Players; Gracie Fields Theatre, Rochdale, 7.30.
 - Concert by the Bristol Choral Society and Orchestra; Colston Hall, Bristol, 7.30.
 - Concert by the Winstable Choral Society; Canterbury Cathedral, 7.30.
 - Concert by the Rochester Choral Society; Rochester Cathedral, 7.30.
 - Concert by the Durham Cathedral Choir with Orchestra; Durham Cathedral, 7.30.
 - Concert by the Philharmonia Orchestra; The Congress Theatre, Eastbourne, 7.30.
- General**
- Christmas Craft Fair; Tumblergate, Welles Girls' Grammar School, Southfield Rd, St John's, 10.
 - Craft Market, The Maltings, Bridge Sq, Farnham, 10.30 to 3.30.
 - Book Fair, St Peter's Church Hall, Hatfield Rd, St Albans, 10 to 4.
 - Book Fair; Griffin Hotel, Leeds, 10 to 5.

Tomorrow's events

- Exhibitions in progress**
- Don't Trust The Label: fakes, imitations and the real thing; York City Art Gallery, Exhibition Sq; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5 (ends Dec 7).
 - Illustrations by Gallen-Kallela and colour photographs of Karelian rural life: two contemporary exhibitions from Finland; MacRobert Arts Centre, Stirling University; Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Nov 29).
 - The Un-painted Landscape; Smith Art Gallery & Museum, Dumbarton Rd, Stirling; Wed to Sat 10 to 5, Sat 10.30 to 5 (ends Nov 30).
 - Last chance to see
 - Recent watercolours by Ann Manly and Dennis Harrison and sculpture by Stanley Vereker; Arts Centre, Town Hall, Bampton, Oxon, 2.30 to 4.30.
 - Folk art of Indonesia; The Reid Molteni Gallery, The Buildings, Exeter, Stockbridge, 10.30 to 6.
 - Looking into paintings; landscape; Castle Museum, Nottingham, 10 to 4.45.
- MUSIC**
- Concert by the Hallé Orchestra; Free Trade Hall, Manchester, 7.30.
 - Concert by the Talcaza String Quartet; Glasgow School of Music, Wemyss Garden City, 7.45.
 - Concert by the Epsilon Wind Quintet; Third Eye Centre, 350 Sauchiehall St, Glasgow, 8.
 - Concert by the University of Surrey Chamber Orchestra; University Hall, Guildford, 7.45.
 - Concert by the New London Chamber Choir; Assembly Hall, Trowbridge Wells, 8.
- General**
- Salisbury Book Fair; Red Lion Hotel, Salisbury, 10.30 to 4.30.
 - Antony Hopkins: How to be a successful faller; Northcott Theatre, Exeter University, 8.
- Anniversaries**
- TODAY
- Births: William Pitt the Elder, 1st earl of Chatham, prime minister 1751-61, 1766-68, London, 1708; Sir William Herschel, astronomer, Hanover, 1738; August Krogh, physiologist, Nobel laureate, 1920, Graz, Denmark, 1874; Aeneas Bullock, 1897.
 - Deaths: Johannes Kepler, astronomer, Regensburg, Germany, 1630; Christophorus Columbus, 1492; George Romney, portrait painter, Kendal, Cumbria, 1802; Ts'ao Hsi, empress dowager of China, Peking, 1908; Lionel Barrymore, actor, Van Nuys, California, 1954.
- TOMORROW**
- Births: John Bright, anti-Corn Law campaigner, Rochdale, Lancs, 1811.
 - Deaths: Henry III, reigned 1216-72, London, 1272; Lucas von Hildebrandt, architect, Vienna, 1745; John Walker, founder of The Times, Teddington, Middlesex, 1812; Louis Riel, leader of the Metis insurrection in Canada, hanging Regina, Saskatchewan, 1885; Clark Gable, Hollywood, 1960.
- Tower Bridge**
- Tower Bridge will be raised today at 8.15 am and then again at 9 am.

Roads

- Wales and West: M4: Contrail westbound between junctions 16 (Swindon) and 17 (Chippinham), M4: Lane closures between junctions 34 and 35 (Rhonda & Pen-Coed), M5: Contrail on the southbound carriageway at junction 14 (B4509 Thornbury).
- The North: M1: Repair work with lane closures between junctions 31 (A57) and 33 (A630 Rotham), M18: Contrail between junctions 6 and 7 (Thome/M62), M6: Contrail between junctions 29 and 32 (A6/M55).
- Scotland: M8: Roadworks at junction 15 (Townhead interchange) affecting drivers travelling to and from Springburn and Kirkintilloch, Glasgow, A82: Construction work S of Luss, Dumbartonshire, A74: Barrier repairs and lane closures S of junction with A70 (Ayr). Information supplied by AA.

Weather forecast

A shallow ridge of high pressure will cross most of Britain during the day ahead of cloud and rain spreading quickly eastwards from the next Atlantic system.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, central S, SW, central N, NE England, Midlands, Channel Islands, S Wales, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth: Mainly dry with sunny periods; wind W moderate backing S fresh; max temp 10C (50F).

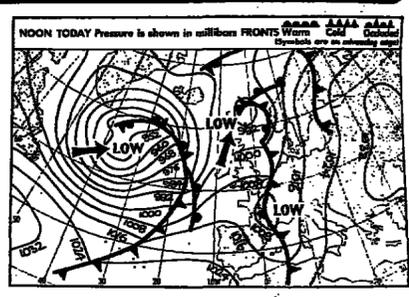
East Anglia, E England, Surrey intervals, perhaps isolated showers at first; wind NW light backing SW moderate; max temp 10C (50F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland: Sunny intervals, isolated showers during; wind W moderate backing S fresh; max temp 10C (50F).

NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Sunny intervals, scattered showers; wind W moderate backing S; max temp 8C (46F).

Argyll, NW Scotland, Northern Ireland: Sunny intervals, scattered showers during, becoming drizzle with some rain later; wind NW light backing S fresh to strong; max temp 10C (50F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Fair, spreading eastwards across all parts tomorrow, followed by colder showery weather on Monday.



TODAY	AM	HT	PM	NT	TOMORROW	AM	HT	PM	NT
London Bridge	12.53	7.2	1.07	4.1	London Bridge	12.23	7.1	1.44	7.0
Aberdeen	12.05	4.1	12.28	4.1	Aberdeen	12.42	4.1	1.10	4.1
Aberystwyth	8.17	2.7	2.35	4.9	Aberystwyth	11.23	1.7	1.27	13.0
Ammanford	10.10	3.3	10.23	3.4	Ammanford	10.42	3.4	10.57	3.3
Cardiff	6.02	11.7	6.20	11.9	Cardiff	6.38	11.9	6.57	12.0
Cardross	4.49	1.4	5.01	5.5	Cardross	3.47	1.2	6.54	5.5
Dover	10.04	6.5	10.30	6.4	Dover	10.21	6.6	11.06	6.5
Exeter	4.19	5.2	4.31	5.3	Exeter	4.52	5.3	5.04	5.3
Glasgow	11.54	4.6	11.59	4.8	Glasgow	12.20	4.7	12.23	4.6
Hertford	10.55	4.0	11.25	3.9	Hertford	11.35	4.0	11.59	3.9
Holyhead	9.25	5.3	9.26	5.4	Holyhead	9.57	5.3	10.10	5.4
Leamington	12.30	1.2	1.50	2.3	Leamington	12.56	1.0	1.23	1.6
Lincoln	4.57	6.6	5.15	6.9	Lincoln	5.30	6.7	5.49	6.8
Lisburn	1.25	5.4	1.58	5.4	Lisburn	2.02	5.4	2.51	5.4
Liverpool	10.2	1.9	10.56	1.9	Liverpool	10.56	2.0	11.20	1.1
Luton	8.								

from Qatar
Success at
ale feast

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1293.2 (-2.5)
FT-SE 100
1644.3 (-0.3)
Bargains
25786 (27780)
USM (Datastream)
130.88 (+0.11)
THE POUND
US Dollar
1.4295 (+0.0050)
W German mark
2.8647 (same)
Trade-weighted
68.3 (+0.01)

Oil inches
above \$15

Oil prices rose marginally yesterday, with North Sea Brent for delivery next month creeping over the \$15 a barrel level in anticipation of an agreement at this weekend's meeting of the Opec pricing committee in Ecuador. The committee has been called to discuss moving Opec back to a fixed-price system and an agreement on a \$18-a-barrel price is expected to be reached at the next full Opec meeting in Geneva on December 11. The oil price has also firmed in the US as the onset of cold weather in some areas has boosted demand for gas oil.

Elders cleared

The acquisition by Elders DXL of Courage and other assets of Hanson Trust will not be referred to the Monopolies Commission. The acquisition by Carlo Engineering Group of outstanding shares in Jonas Woodhead and Sons is also cleared.

Unilever hunt

Unilever officials told securities analysts in New York that after disposing of 40 non-core businesses in the last three years, the company is now looking for acquisitions in growth areas rather than simply cash-generating businesses.

Reuters offer

Reuters, the information and news agency, has started its cash tender offer for 45 per cent of Instinet, the American share-dealing system group. The agreed offer, at \$8.20 (\$5.74) an Instinet share, would give Reuters control of Instinet.

US sales dip

American retail sales fell by 5 per cent in October, although sales other than cars went up by 0.2 per cent. Producer prices rose by 0.3 per cent. Industrial production was unchanged.

Yes to Coalite

The bid by Coalite Group for Hargreaves has been approved by the European Commission, making the offer wholly unconditional.

Goodyear talks

Goodyear Tyre and Rubber is in talks about the sale of its subsidiary, Goodyear Aerospace, to Martin Marietta Corporation.

Bid raised

Ranger UK has increased its cash offer for Berkeley Exploration to 62p a share and taken its stake to 53.4 per cent.

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MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS
New York
Dow Jones 1872.05 (+9.85)
Tokyo
Nikkei Dow 17390.50 (-47.97)
Hong Kong
Hang Seng 2244.03 (-17.42)
Amsterdam Gen 2803 (-2.3)
Sydney AO 1362.3 (-15.8)
Frankfurt
Commerzbank 1979.2 (-7.2)
Brussels
General 3833.80 (-58.18)
Paris CAC 378.6 (-0.3)
Zurich
SKA General 544.00 (same)
London closing prices (Page 2)

Inflation steady
at 3% but big
rise looks likely

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent
The rate of inflation held steady at 3 per cent last month, rounding off a good week of economic news for the Government. City economists had expected the inflation rate to show a small increase. However, the inflation rate is likely to rise sharply this month because of the 1.25 percentage point increase in the mortgage rate, which took effect from November 1 for most borrowers. Forecasters expect that the pound's recent weakness will push the inflation rate towards 4 per cent over the winter but that the rate will head down temporarily in the second quarter of next year, possibly coinciding with a general election. The retail price index last month was 388.4 (January 1974 = 100), up 0.2 per cent on the September level of 387.8. There were price increases for clothing and footwear, particularly women's outer wear, and draught beer. The price of petrol edged up by 0.3p to an average of 168.2p a gallon for four star. But there was a fall of 2.1 per cent in seasonal food prices, with dessert apples, pears, lamb and eggs down in price. But fish, soft drinks and vegetables, excluding potatoes, rose in price. Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Paymaster General, said: "I am glad to say that at 3 per cent the rate of inflation in October was the same as that for September. "At the time of the Budget, the Chancellor anticipated a rate of inflation of 3 1/2 per cent for the fourth quarter of this year," he added. The Department of Employment appears to be in agreement with the Treasury. In his autumn statement last week, the Chancellor forecast a fourth-quarter inflation rate of 3 1/2 per cent. This implies a higher rate in November and December than for last month. The mortgage-rate increase will add 0.6 per cent to the retail price index, mainly in November but with some spilling over into December. James Capel, the stockbroker, expects a rate of 3.4 per cent this month, rising to 3.7 per cent in December. It forecasts that the rate will edge up to 3.8 per cent by March, falling to 3.5 per cent in April and May, before increasing to more than 4 per cent during the summer months. Britain's inflation rate of 3 per cent is higher than the 2.5 per cent average for the Western industrialized countries, but just below the EEC average of 3.1 per cent. West Germany and the Netherlands both have falling prices, at rates of 0.4 and 0.6 per cent respectively. The inflation rate in Japan is just 0.2 per cent, in the US 1.8 per cent, and in France 2.3 per cent. The inflation figures were welcomed by the Confederation of British Industry. "It is encouraging news that inflation is holding steady at 3 per cent. This is in line with CBI forecasts and reinforces the opportunities open to British firms to win more business, both at home and overseas, and to create more jobs here in the UK." Another measure of inflation, the tax and price index, rose to 1.5 per cent last month, from 1.2 per cent in September. The retail price index, excluding mortgage rates, was unchanged last month at 3.4 per cent.

Bank reshuffle gives wider
powers to Eddie George

By Graham Seargeant, Financial Editor
A new management re-organization at the Bank of England will give more responsibility to Mr Eddie George, aged 48, the director in charge of money markets and gilt-edged sales, who has been widely regarded as a future internal candidate for the governorship of the Bank. He is to take over responsibility for day-to-day operations in the foreign exchange market, bringing the Bank's intervention in money markets, bond markets and foreign exchange together in Mr George's hands. Mr Anthony Loehms, the Bank's overseas director, who used to handle foreign exchange intervention, will continue to be responsible for longer-term exchange policy. Mr George will also be in already responsible for supervision of the gilt-edged markets. The new office will be headed by Mr John Townsend from the money markets division, who will also supervise discount houses. The Governor has also appointed his first chief monetary adviser since the departure in January 1985 of Mr Charles Goodhart, now a professor at the London School of Economics. Mr Tony Coleby, aged 51, the new adviser, has a background of day-to-day contact with the market as assistant director in charge of the money markets division (a post to be taken over by Mr Bill Allen). The changes represent a shift of power from the more academic side of the Bank to those dealing day-to-day with market operators.

Societies' record intake
'distorted' by TSB float

By Martin Baker
Building societies took in a record £1.951 billion last month. But the big cash intake was largely attributed to the £4 billion offer of shares in the TSB floatation, which has had a greater overall impact on the societies' inflows, although the exact effect will depend on the extent to which the offer is oversubscribed. A more accurate measure of the true inflow would be half the aggregate of the last two months, roughly £700 million per month, the BSA said. Receipts from sources other than small investors, mainly the wholesale money markets, were £654 million last month. Despite the growing trend for building societies to market shares in their branches, the BSA said societies "were not in decline as an investment medium". They received £7.705 billion from investors last month, while withdrawals amounted to £5.554 billion.

New Bill aims to strengthen
banking supervision laws

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent
The Government yesterday published the Banking Bill which is to form the new framework for banking supervision. It is the first legislation to be introduced to Parliament since the Queen's Speech last Tuesday. Mr Ian Stewart, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, announced plans for an independent review body to examine the laws in several areas of banking which may be outdated or inadequate to cover new banking developments. The committee, to be set up in co-operation with the Bank of England, will make a "full and coherent review of the law relating to banking mechanisms and practices, taking into account technological and other developments". Mr Stewart said: "It will take about a year to report and could result in new legislation. Treasury officials said an area of particular interest was the development of electronic funds transfer systems which might not be covered by existing legislation. Legislation on some areas of banking had not been changed since 1879. Developments of EEC law on banking also would need to be reviewed. The Government was spurred to bring up to date the 1979 Banking Act by the near collapse two years ago of Johnson Matthey Bankers, and to produce a legislation that dovetailed the new Financial Services Act. The Bill strengthens the supervisory structure of banks in several crucial ways. There is to be a new Board of Banking Supervision. It will provide independent advice on supervision to the Bank of England. The two-tier system of supervision for licensed deposit takers and banks will be abolished, with a single set of supervisory criteria for all deposit taking institutions. There will be limits set on the size of any bank's exposure to individual clients, and it will become a criminal offence not to notify the Bank of particularly large exposures. The Bill tightens up the mechanism for reporting information to the Bank's supervisory department. This includes powers of entry for the Bank to obtain information it believes to be crucial. It will become a criminal offence to report false or misleading information to supervisors. Auditors will have a greater responsibility to check on banks' internal controls and record keeping as well as their statistical returns to supervisors. When a bank runs into difficulties, auditors will be required to "blow the whistle" and report this to the Bank of England.



James Sherwood: need to cut 1,000 more Sealink jobs

Profits fall 26%
at Sea Containers

By Teresa Poole
The losses which would have been made if the services had continued to operate as before. Although the third-quarter marked a return to profits after first-half net losses of \$26.5 million, Sea Containers will make an overall loss for both the fourth-quarter and the full year because of heavy redundancy costs at Sealink - about £19 million for the full year - and losses on the container shipping side of the business. The group made profits of \$39.5 million in 1985. In the three months to the end of September, the time when ferry earnings are at their best, Sealink achieved a 30 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to \$38.3 million but container asset leasing made losses of \$3.4 million compared with profits of almost \$11 million in the same period last year. Overall group net losses for the nine months to the end of September were \$1.6 million compared with profits of \$44.6 million in the same period last year. Mr James Sherwood, president of Sea Containers, yesterday spoke of the need for a further 1,000 job losses at Sealink over the next three years. Announcing a 26 per cent fall in the 1986 third-quarter net profits to \$24.9 million (£17.4 million) for Sea Containers, the Bermuda-based container-leasing group which owns Sealink, he said the ferries were still overmanned compared with other European operations. Last month, Sealink suffered a two-week strike over the decision to shed about 500 jobs on the Sealink Channel Islands services and the company suspended dividend payments on ordinary shares to conserve cash. The number of employees has already fallen from 9,400 to 7,000 since Sea Containers bought Sealink from British Rail in 1984. Mr Sherwood said the strike would not affect fourth-quarter results because the \$5 million (£3.5 million) cost of the stoppage was the same as

140p price
for shares
in Virgin

By Cliff Feltham
The striking price of shares offered for sale in Mr Richard Branson's Virgin records and entertainments group was yesterday fixed at 140p, valuing the business at £242 million. The issue, which attracted big crowds of last-minute investors in the City, was three times oversubscribed with more than 84,000 applications. The allocation of the 42 million shares being sold was slanted in favour of the small investor, with those seeking the minimum 200 shares receiving a full allotment. The tender route chosen for the shares, offered at a minimum of 120p, found some investors offering up to £3 a share. Mr Branson, who is selling shares worth £20 million and whose remaining stake in the business will be worth £128 million at the striking price, said he was "humbled" by the number of would-be small investors. Mr Branson, aged 36, operates an empire spanning record shops, record music and film and video distribution. He began his business career selling advertisements for a magazine from a telephone box outside his school library. He later moved into mail order, selling popular records before signing up artists of his own, including the Sex Pistols, Bob Dylan and Phil Collins. In fact, staff and artists are receiving £3.9 million worth of shares in the allocation. Apart from shareholders who receive the minimum allocation, everyone receives at least 25 per cent of what they were seeking. The striking price, according to some City estimates yesterday, should ensure a healthy market when trading in the shares begins next Friday. Applications made at or above the striking price are accepted on this basis. Applications for 200 shares, full allocation; for 300 and 400 shares, 200 shares; 500 shares, 250; 600 to 1,000, 300; 1,500 and above, 25 per cent of the number sought up to a maximum of 500,000.

ECC makes hostile
bid for Bryant

By Our City Staff
English China Clays (ECC), the quarries and construction group, yesterday fired off a hostile £137 million takeover bid for Bryant Holdings, the housebuilders, after failing to achieve an agreed offer. Sir Alan Dalton, chairman of ECC, said: "The door remains open for them to talk to us further, but in the meantime we are putting the details of our attractive offer to their shareholders." The bid met with a swift response from Bryant. Mr Chris Bryant, chairman, who, with family interests speaks for about 20 per cent of the equity, said the bid was wholly inadequate and would be "vigorously defended". He said: "They are offering a derisory price. The business has been in the family for 101 years and we want to keep our independence." English China Clays is offering three of its shares for seven Bryant shares, valuing them at 133p each. But the stock market judged that the terms would have to be raised and marked Bryant shares up by 4 1/2p to 149 1/2p. Bryant shares have risen sharply this week after English China announced it was trying to arrange an agreed bid. But a meeting between the two sides broke down without agreement. English China claims a get-together would be sensible. It would create a business that could build about 3,000 homes a year, stretching from Bryant's base in the Midlands to the South and South-west.

Grand Met
chief goes
to Merrill

By Our City Staff
Mr Michael Orr, finance director of Grand Metropolitan, the brewing-to-hotels group, is leaving to head investment banking in Europe and the Middle East for Merrill Lynch. But last night he insisted his decision to leave the job he has held for the past five years had nothing to do with a recent boardroom reshuffle, which involved splitting the jobs of chairman and chief executive held by Sir Stanley Grimstead. Mr Allen Sheppard was appointed chief executive. Mr Orr, who had been considered a leading candidate for the post, said: "It is just a coincidence that I am leaving at this time. I had been talking to Merrill Lynch for several months. I thought it unlikely that someone like myself, in his forties who had been there for five years, would have got it." Mr Orr, aged 49, was a senior director of SG Warburg, the merchant bank, before joining Grand Metropolitan. He is taking on the positions of managing director, Merrill Lynch Europe and Merrill Lynch Capital Markets in New York. Mr Orr, who was probably earning around £90,000 a year at Grand Metropolitan, is likely to receive a considerable increase in his new job. His place at Grand Metropolitan will be taken by Mr Clive Strouger.

State industries' pact

By Colin Narborough
The Government has reached agreement with the nationalized industries to improve their response to recommendations from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, Mr John McGregor, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said yesterday. He said in a written parliamentary reply that arrangements for following up MMC reports on frequently near-monopoly industries were generally working well. However, the Government saw some scope for improvement in ensuring that follow-up procedures operated as intended and in eliminating gaps in reporting progress. Statements on an industry's progress should also be given some form of publicity. Officials said that the last point formed part of government attempts to open nationalized industries to more public scrutiny.

CONSISTENT INVESTMENT
PERFORMANCE

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Gartmore
GARTMORE INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Blacks rights issue set to raise £3m

By Lawrence Lever

Blacks Leisure Group yesterday announced a £3 million rights issue on the back of interim results which showed half-year pretax losses of £790,000 as opposed to £1.25 million in the corresponding period last year.

The rights issue was signposted earlier in the week by the new management, which provided a £1 million rescue package for Blacks last month. The company is offering six new ordinary shares at 3p each for every five existing shares, to raise £3 million net of expenses.

Blacks' shares, which stood at 84p before the announcement, closed at 8p.

The rights issue will increase the company's market capitalization by almost 70 per cent.

Mr Bernard Garbacz, the new chairman and finance director of Blacks Leisure, said the money would be used to increase supplies to the company's shops.

"We've got the customers - we'll use the money to ensure that the suppliers send the goods in," he said.

The company will use part of the rights issue to clear unpaid bills and the balance to cover its working capital requirements.

The management says it is confident that the company will be able to "build and expand".

Mr Garbacz and the other members of the rescue consortium are taking up their full entitlement to shares under the rights issue. This represents 37.4 per cent of the issue.

Other shareholders have agreed to take up 15.01 per cent of the issue and the balance is being underwritten by Charterhouse Bank.

The company made a trading loss of £213,000 in the six months to August 31 compared with losses of £834,000 in the same period last year.

The half-year pretax losses to August 31 take account of a £117,000 profit on the sale of the company's remaining textile quota.

In addition, the losses include an extraordinary debit of £296,000 made up of bank charges, a £25,000 loss on the sale of a subsidiary, and £78,000 in costs associated with the offer for the company by Sears which was subsequently withdrawn.

The company supplies a wide range of food and non-food products to hotels and restaurants, factory canteens and schools.

Directors and shareholders owning 51.1 per cent of the business have agreed to accept the terms of 187p a share.

Snowdon & Bridge was floated on the Unlisted Securities Market last year at 97p a share. Turnover in the half year to July 31 was £11 million, and pretax profits were up from £365,000 to £575,000.

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Britain is first with policy on removing N Sea oil platforms

By David Young Energy Correspondent

Britain has become the first oil-producing country with a cohesive policy on what to do with the big offshore platforms once the oil runs out.

The Petroleum Bill, introduced by Mr Peter Walker, the Energy Secretary, yesterday, will cover the dismantling and abandonment of oil wells, gas wells, and pipelines in the North Sea.

The first platform to reach the end of its productive life will probably be an oil platform - as yet unnamed by the Department of Energy - in the central part of the North Sea.

Gas-producing platforms in the southern basin in the North Sea will be next, but it will be well into the next century before the break-up of the big structures in the northern waters of the British sector starts.

The legislation means it is likely that the smaller structures will be removed while the larger structures will be partially dismantled to economic levels.

The Bill will provide for safety checks during the dismantling work, to specify anti-pollution checks and to allow inspections while the work is going on.

Changes to the royalty payment structure in the industry will also allow the Energy Secretary to authorize repayment to the oil companies to meet part of the costs of dismantling.

The Bill also contains changes made to safety-zone legislation in the Queen's Speech and the inclusion of the territorial waters around Northern Ireland in the present offshore licensing regime.

The Department of Energy also published yesterday the Coal Industry Bill, which authorizes further government aid to British Coal until its break-even target of 1988-89 and also extends rights of representation in the industry to all employees.

This provision reflects the promise made by Mr David Hunt, the minister responsible for the industry, that members of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers should enjoy the same statutory rights as members of the National Union of Mineworkers.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500-share index registered a gain of 0.08 at 243.10 while the New York Stock Exchange composite index was down 0.03 at 140.00.

Lockheed Corporation was once again the subject of takeover speculation as analysts discussed likely suitors and a potential price for the company, according to market observers.

Lockheed, which rose 2 1/2% on Thursday, was up a further 4 to 5 1/4% early yesterday. However, the corporation's chief financial officer denied that the company was in talks with anyone.

In another development, Unisys Corporation and Honeywell said that Honeywell would acquire the Sperry Aerospace Group from Unisys for \$1.025 billion (£716.8 million) in cash.

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Dow edges upward in early trade

New York (Reuters) - Despite some fears of a follow-through of Thursday's futures-related selling, the market managed to regain some of its composure in early trading yesterday. It showed a less frantic decline in early deals.

Softer-than-expected economic figures produced moderate downward pressure.

The Dow Jones Industrial average, which was down about 10 points nearer the opening, strengthened to 1,864.60, up 2.40, at one stage later in the morning. The transport index was down a mere 0.25 at 834.00 and the utilities indicator down 0.17 at 209.70.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500-share index registered a gain of 0.08 at 243.10 while the New York Stock Exchange composite index was down 0.03 at 140.00.

Lockheed Corporation was once again the subject of takeover speculation as analysts discussed likely suitors and a potential price for the company, according to market observers.

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WALL STREET

	Nov 13	Nov 12	Nov 11	Nov 10	Nov 9
AMR	56 3/4	57 1/2	57 1/2	57 1/2	57 1/2
ASA	38 1/2	38 1/2	38 1/2	38 1/2	38 1/2
AT&T	41 1/4	41 1/4	41 1/4	41 1/4	41 1/4
BA	66 1/2	66 1/2	66 1/2	66 1/2	66 1/2
BK	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2
BOJ	35 1/2	35 1/2	35 1/2	35 1/2	35 1/2
BR	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2	12 1/2
BS	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2
CA	44 1/2	44 1/2	44 1/2	44 1/2	44 1/2
CC	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2	87 1/2
CE	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2	25 1/2
CF	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
CG	56 1/2	56 1/2	56 1/2	56 1/2	56 1/2
CH	73 1/2	73 1/2	73 1/2	73 1/2	73 1/2
CI	39 1/2	39 1/2	39 1/2	39 1/2	39 1/2
CJ	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
CK	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
CL	73 1/2	73 1/2	73 1/2	73 1/2	73 1/2
CM	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
CO	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
CP	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
CQ	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
CR	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
CS	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
CT	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
CU	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
CV	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
CW	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
CX	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
CY	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
CZ	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
DD	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
DE	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
DF	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
DG	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
DH	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
DI	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
DJ	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
DK	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
DL	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
DM	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
DN	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
DO	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
DP	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
DQ	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
DR	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
DS	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
DT	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
DU	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
DV	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
DW	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
DX	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
DY	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
DZ	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
EA	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
EB	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
EC	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
ED	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
EE	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
EF	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
EG	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
EH	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
EI	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
EJ	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
EK	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
EL	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
EM	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
EN	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
EO	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
EP	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2	26 1/2
EQ	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2	23 1/2
ER	26				

ConsGold back in spotlight as profit-takers shy away

By Michael Clark and Carol Leonard

Consolidated Gold Fields, the mining finance group, was again at the centre of bid speculation yesterday as the shares held rock-steady at 694p - just 11p below the year's high. The wave of profit-taking that dealers had anticipated failed to materialize.

Just a couple of months ago the shares were trading at a low of 409p, but the troubles in South Africa have since focused attention on the near 30 per cent stake held by the republic's wealthy Mr Harry Oppenheimer who may be anxious to invest some of his fortune abroad.

He is now being tipped to bid for the rest of the shares through Anglo American and, according to market sources, may have already lined up Trafalgar House to buy ConsGold's wholly-owned Arney Roadstone subsidiary.

There is talk that Trafalgar House has been looking round to make a sizeable acquisition in order to lessen its dependence on oil and the oil industry. Whispers earlier this year, suggested it may have given MEPC, the property developer, the once-over, but was thwarted by the sudden fall in its own share price.

The speculation surrounding ConsGold has been brought to a head this week with news of heavy Swiss support for the shares in

traded options. Several leading investment houses are known to have built up large positions for themselves in the hope that a deal may soon be in the offing.

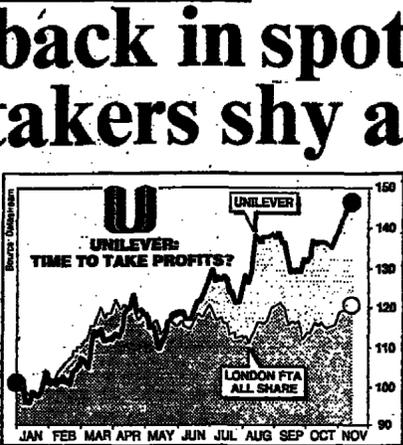
Meanwhile, the flurry of activity in ConsGold has also started to focus attention on several Charter Consolidated. Several big fund managers claim the shares, up 5p at 287p, look cheap and there is the possibility of a bid thrown in for nothing.

The equity market shrugged off the sharp overnight fall on Wall Street and shares recovered some of their earlier poise. The FT-SE 100 index, which started the day seven points lower, managed to close just 0.3 down, at 1,644.3. The FT 30-share index closed down 2.5 at 1,293.2.

Renewed institutional buying lifted Tophook, the container and trailer rental group, 15p to a peak of 350p ahead of interim figures next month. Mr Robert Montague, chairman, says the group is operating at 87 per cent utilization with more than 50,000 containers. Next stop 400p?

Applications for shares in Virgin, the pop record empire of Mr Richard Branson, closed yesterday, three times subscribed, but experienced a disappointing debut in the unofficial grey market. Cleveland Securities, the licensed dealer, was quoting them at a middle price of 147p, just a 7p premium to the 140p striking price.

STOCK MARKET REPORT



Pilkington Brothers, Britain's biggest glass manufacturer, climbed 14p to 555p, on continued speculation that BTR has a 4.9 per cent stake. On Monday the company will announce a 10 per cent increase in the price of its glass products in Britain - which should give an unexpected boost to margins and further help fend off any predator.

Grand Metropolitan, the hotel to brewery group, dipped 5p to 456p, despite appointing a new group finance director, Mr Clive Strouger. The appointment is being seen by the City as a very positive move, and a somewhat surprising one coming so soon after Mr Alan Sheppard, the group chief executive, moved his right hand man, Mr Ian Martin, from Watney to head the company's US operations. Mr Strouger formerly ran Grand Met's Express Dairy subsidiary.

Mr Daniel Leaf, brewing analyst at Wood Mackenzie, the broker, said: "Mr Sheppard is showing signs of a dynamic management style which should increase the profile of the group in the City."

Guinness Fest, the financial services house, firmed 2p to 89p amid renewed takeover speculation. This time there is said to be an offer coming soon at the 120p level.

The call went out to investors from brokers' offices yesterday to take profits in Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch household products group, which earlier this week cheered the market with some better-than-expected third-quarter figures. They showed a rise in pretax profits of 22 per cent to £299 million in spite of a small dip in turnover to £3.9 billion. But at a seminar arranged by the company overnight in New York, brokers came away with the impression that we may have seen the best of Unilever for the time being.

Brokers such as Wood Mackenzie have now changed

Interim results from Metal Box, the metal can and plastic bottle manufacturer, out on Tuesday, should pleasantly surprise the market. Most brokers are looking for profits of £38 to £40 million but latest word is that the tin price collapse could have given an unexpected boost to margins. Its shares firmed a penny to 174p.

their stance on the shares and are urging clients to sell. Unilever shares which have been touching new heights this week fell 27p to £19.98. Analysts are still not ruling out a possible share-split at the year-end.

The high street retailers suffered another early shake-out, but finished above their worst levels of the day. Marks and Spencer dipped 2p to 194p as a line of one million shares went through the market at 193.5p. A total of 4.6 million shares were traded.

Oil shares continued to pin their hopes on the prospect of dearer crude oil following recent moves by Saudi Arabia to raise the price to \$18 a barrel. The price of North Sea Brent crude for January delivery was trading at \$15.30 a barrel yesterday, helped by rumours that Saudi Arabia was considering a cut of one million barrels a day in its production quota ahead of next month's Opec meeting in Geneva.

There was selective support for the big producers but prices generally closed below their best levels of the day. BP firmed up to 694p as almost two million shares were traded, while Shell lost an early 11p lead to finish only 1.5p up at 954.5p as 716,000 shares changed hands.

COMMENT

BA keeps the flag flying and saves its share sale

In a couple of days, Lord King, chairman of British Airways, will reveal half-time profits for the present year. No one is expecting anything other than grim news. It has been a nightmarish year for everyone who makes a substantial part of their living from flying passengers on the usually lucrative routes across the North Atlantic.

Monday's statement is likely to show profits at the pretax level down from the £200 million or so of last year to perhaps £130 million or a touch more. Not on the face of things an auspicious precursor to privatization, now scheduled for early next year.

But the reality behind those figures is rather different. The significant story of a disaster-stricken 1986 is that it could so easily have been as bad for BA as it turned out to be for some of its American rivals. In that event, there would have been a profits fall of catastrophic proportions and it is most unlikely that Downing Street would have given the nod to a January flotation at all.

Most heartening for those who recall the BA of old, is that the present management reacted in a way not in the least characteristic of a state-controlled industry. It was hard-headed and financially sound and showed a fine degree of style. Laid back, but not supine.

Problems came at BA in a torrent in April, the very first month of the new financial year. Virgin's airline, significantly not included in the flotation of Richard Branson's empire, signalled an impending price war when it announced £100 reductions on packages to the US. Then BCal asked the Civil Aviation Authority to sanction lower fares on transatlantic routes.

The next few days saw the start of a series of terrorist attacks that decimated traffic between North America and Europe throughout the spring. They began with the bombing of a Berlin nightclub, followed by an attempted rocket attack on the US embassy in Beirut. A week later President Reagan's patience snapped and Libya was bombed. In the aftermath, TWA cancelled Rome-Athens-Cairo services after an attack on one of its aircraft and Colonel Gaddafi declared Britain to be a legitimate target as well as the US for retaliation against the US air strike.

April drew to a close with the failed attempt to bomb the El-Al jumbo jet at Heathrow, the Chernobyl disaster and disclosure by the US travel service that half the Americans planning visits to Europe in March, April and May had decided to cancel and holiday elsewhere.

Not surprisingly, this led to the sharpest downturn in business BA has ever experienced. In May, cancellations were coming in faster than new bookings. Revenues were sharply

down. Analysts say that BA lost around £50 million of revenue in the first quarter of its current financial year.

The knee-jerk response to such a setback would have been to rush out cut-price measures in an effort to snatch market share from rival airlines or simply to hang on to the margins and blame the problems on the rest of the world. BA decided instead to market its way out of the mire.

The "Go for it America" campaign cost a mere £4 million yet it yielded a rich harvest. The basic ideas were two-fold: to restore confidence in Britain as a safe destination for US tourists and to pre-empt similar efforts by other airlines.

The lottery to give away 5,600 free seats on flights to Britain gained millions of dollars worth of TV network time. More than a million people responded in the hope of winning prizes such as free use of Concorde for a day, a £100,000 Harrods spending spree, a five-year lease on a London town-house or a Rolls Royce. BA chose a couple of lucky winners from each of its 15 US destinations to meet the Prime Minister and the airline when they were interviewed on their local TV stations was again worth millions.

The results of the campaign were spectacular in financial as well as marketing terms. In May, according to analysts, BA was down 25 per cent on its revenue budgets. By September the gap had shrunk to 7 or 8 per cent. Had it remained at the springtime levels throughout the whole of the first half-year, interim profits would have been in the £80 to £85 million range.

That would almost certainly have suppressed any thoughts of an imminent flotation. BA has no chance in the winter months, when it just about breaks even, of making up any first-half profits shortfall. There is thus no way that the airline could have been privatized for anything like the £1 billion or so that the Treasury will be looking for in January. With an election in the wind, there would have been substantial political risk in privatizing at anything that could be construed as a give-away price.

The decision therefore to mount the "Go for it America" campaign in effect saved the flotation from yet another postponement. It also demonstrates just how far BA has travelled from the bad old days when a far less commercial approach to the bottom line was the order of things. The airline business is notorious for its ups and downs. That the present management is capable of swift and sure response when disaster strikes should help the flotation no end.

John Bell
City Editor

ALPHA STOCKS. These prices are as at 6.45pm. Table with columns for 1986 High/Low Company, Price, Change, Green/Yellow/Red, and 1986 High/Low Company, Price, Change, Green/Yellow/Red.

MAI bids £24m for LCAH

By Lawrence Lever. The fortunes of London and Continental Advertising Holdings (LCAH), the troubled outdoor advertiser, took a new twist yesterday when MAI, the financial and media group, launched a £24 million bid for the company.

MAI has built a 22.35 per cent stake in LCAH. It opposes the reorganization plans and £7.4 million rights issue announced by LCAH earlier this month. These plans mean the replacement of four LCAH directors with people from Piccadilly House, the investment group, and a 25 per cent stake in LCAH for Piccadilly.

Coffee price in further £130 plunge

By Richard Lamber. The coffee price was hit by another dramatic collapse yesterday with the market adopting a bearish view of the actions being taken by Brazil, the world's largest producer. January robusta futures on the London Commodity Exchange slumped £130 to £2,045 a tonne for a net loss of £280 on the week. Prices had rallied on Thursday after three days of falls on reports that Brazil would halve the amount of coffee made available for export next month, although it would offer discounts on those sales. Traders are inclined to believe that Brazil has plenty of coffee to sell and are worried that stocks it bought in Europe two months ago might re-enter the market rather than be shipped home. Warnings of further falls seemed to be borne out when prices opened sharply lower in New York last night.

Maxwell confuses the McCorquodale issue

Poor old McCorquodale shareholders. They are sitting on tantalizing potential profits, having seen their shares come up from a low of 140p. But they must be totally confused as to whether or how they can take those profits.

The tactics of the company's biggest shareholder, Mr Robert Maxwell, self-styled champion of the smaller shareholder, are muddying the waters at the eleventh hour.

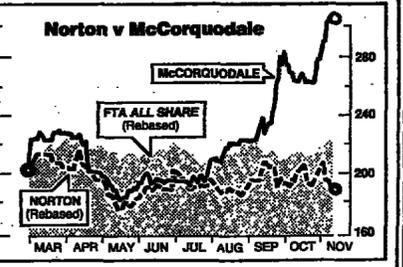
Having assumed his 19.1 per cent stake to the Norton Opax offer, he is now trying to force the rival Datafin management buyout team into increasing its 310p share cash offer. If he succeeds Datafin will secure his additional 3 per cent.

His horse-trading looks like scuppering the Opax bid and, according to the Opax camp, could scupper the buyout bid too.

Opax has pointed out the dangers of management buy-outs in contested bid situations. Datafin needs 90 per cent acceptance before compulsorily buying the rest of the shares. Anything less than 90 per cent and it would have to seek court approval to take McCorquodale private. Opax is sitting on a near-15 per cent stake and could try to block such a move, if its bid lapses. Alternatively, it might have to assist its stake to Datafin just to cover its bid and underwriting costs. McCorquodale shareholders have to decide what to do before next Friday, when the Opax offer closes. Both bids have risks attached. The Opax cash offer of 303.3p a share is less than Datafin's, and its paper offer of 310.3p is vulnerable. Opax shares have retreated from a high of 155p to 133p, partly on fears that the company is taking on too much. The level of dilution for Opax shareholders is hefty and the danger of losing all McCorquodale's senior management is acute for a smaller company like Opax. The Opax shares could suffer a prolonged period of stagnation.

TEMPUS

Maxwell confuses the McCorquodale issue



tion when 3 1/2 times the number now in issue flood the market.

Datafin cash at 310p, or perhaps higher, looks a better bet, but only if the offer succeeds. If both offers lapse the shares will drop below 300p.

Tricentrol

As the weeks stretch into months and there is still no definitive announcement on the disposal of its North American assets, the City's patience with Tricentrol is near breaking point. Its credibility with investors is at a record low, and there cannot be many companies with so few friends among analysts and fund managers. Tricentrol's third quarter results are delayed. They should have come out on Thursday, but are unlikely to appear until early December. This is because the company wants to show its third quarter results on the basis that the United States assets are sold, showing the consequent improvement to its balance sheet.

Shareholders should hang on and read with care the offer document from Datafin. Mr Maxwell's intervention is delaying its appearance, but it is imminent. It should clarify the issue of acceptance levels. It should also contain the advice of Klauswert Benson, adviser to the independent directors at McCorquodale.

The independent directors are supporting the buyout, but they should spell out their reasoning more clearly.

Shorn of its US interests, Tricentrol looks more vulnerable as a potential takeover target. Debt will still be a formidable obstacle to any takeover proposal, however.

The £53 million which the sale is expected to raise will reduce Tricentrol's debt to about £140 million (including £46.3 million of convertible loan stock). But the assets, which Tricentrol bought when the oil price was high, are bound to incur a write-off from book value now they are being sold when the oil price is low. The debt equity ratio, therefore, is likely to remain stubbornly above 1:1.

KINNOCK STEEL TEBBIT

If your party loses, what will the others do to your investments?

READ WHAT THEY SAY IN THE DECEMBER ISSUE OF THE PRIVATE INVESTOR.

Only The Private Investor concentrates the cream of financial journalism, City thinking, and political opinion in a polished Quarterly specialising in serious private investment. It examines in depth - and in accessible language - the short, mid, and long term trends that affect your investment judgement. Nothing else quite like The Private Investor exists in financial journalism. Nothing else assembles the political, financial and economic background with such authority. No other source gives you so perceptive, informed and effective an investment briefing. Political intentions are laid bare. Financial and legislative undercurrents, as well as topical news, are revealed and analysed. Economic forces are assessed, future trends projected. The Private Investor is designed to provide a complete briefing each quarter on the investment environment: a unique and literate basis on which to plan investment strategy. Available exclusively on Subscription. The Private Investor is published quarterly and is available only on subscription for an annual price, covering four issues, of just £12.50. Return the coupon now with your subscription for £12.50. You may cancel your subscription any time after the first issue and claim a refund for the unexpired portion.

- Articles in the 128-page December edition include: Policies for Investment and Growth. Consider their strategies, then plan yours. Kinnock Steel Tebbit. Pure Profit from the Chancellor. Nigel Lawson and Sir Nicholas Goodison on how to get dividends without taxation. Regulating the City Jungle. Sir Kenneth Berrill, Chairman SIB. Privatisations. An alternative point of view. Bill Keegan, Economics Editor, The Observer. Commodities. How to make money out of gold, diamonds, platinum - and even tin. David Green, Daily Telegraph. Chinese Walls. Will the silence be breached? Anthony Hilton, City Editor, The Standard.

IN YOUR MARCH ISSUE

Edward Heath and Jim Callaghan lead a distinguished list of contributors from politics, financial journalism and the City.

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Investors wary

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin on Monday, Dealings end next Friday, Contango day November 24, Settlement day December 1.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Where stocks have only one price quoted, these are middle prices taken daily at 5pm. Yield, change and P/E are calculated on the middle price

Portfolio Gold
From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright a share of the total winner money stated. If you are a back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

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Table with columns: No., Company, Group, Gain or Loss. Lists various companies like Westport, First Nat Finance, Beckley, etc.

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BRITISH FUNDS
High Low Stock Price Change

SHORTS (Under Five Years)
Table listing short positions with columns for company, price, and change.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS
Table listing short positions for the 5-15 year range.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS
Table listing short positions for the over 15 year range.

UNDATED
Table listing undated short positions.

INDEX-LINKED
Table listing index-linked short positions.

Table listing companies in the Breweries sector.

BREWERIES
Table listing companies in the Breweries sector.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS
Table listing companies in the Buildings and Roads sector.

FINANCE AND LAND
Table listing companies in the Finance and Land sector.

FOODS
Table listing companies in the Foods sector.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS
Table listing companies in the Chemicals and Plastics sector.

CINEMAS AND TV
Table listing companies in the Cinemas and TV sector.

HOTELS AND CATERERS
Table listing companies in the Hotels and Caterers sector.

DRAPERY AND STORES
Table listing companies in the Drapery and Stores sector.

Table listing companies in the Finance and Land sector.

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Share price a 20p...
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Edited by Martin Baker

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The mystery of the missing shares

The Official Receiver at the Department of Trade and Industry has been "absolutely inundated" with calls from anxious customers of the two Share Shops that were closed down by the department last week. The department itself granted the Share Shops the licence required to deal with the public.

Telephone callers are now being asked to write in as the Official Receiver cannot cope with the number of telephone inquiries.

Moreover, many customers of the Share Shops, who bought shares through the licensed dealers several weeks ago, have still not received their share certificates.

Inquiries with the company registrars, who maintain share registers for companies and issue share certificates, reveal that in a number of cases the Share Shops have received money to buy shares—but the registrars have not received the transfer forms in the time scale normally expected, and



The Share Shop in Finchley Road, now closed down

these are necessary for the certificates to be issued.

The Share Shops were closed down on Friday last week after complaints to the department from customers over the settlement of their orders. The department had also become concerned because creditors of companies related to the Share Shops had filed petitions to wind them up. The Share Shops were run by the City Investment Centres (CIC) company, part of the Ravendale Group run by Chander Singh.

The Share Shops in Finchley Road and New Bond Street, London, offered investors the chance to buy and sell shares at net prices—without paying commission. Ironically, shares they offered to deal in included popular government privatization issues such as British Telecom, Britoil and Cable & Wireless.

One Times reader, a Nottingham accountant, telephoned the Finchley Road shop on September 26 to buy 100 British shares at 116½p

similar picture at Lloyds Bank's registrars department, which maintains a register for British Telecom shares.

CIC was a licensed dealer in securities. As such it is not part of the Stock Exchange and therefore none of its customers—if they have lost money—will be able to make a claim on the Exchange's compensation fund.

Two years before the department's investigators moved into the Share Shops—and long before the department granted CIC a licence—Dr O'Connell McDonald, Labour MP for Thurrock, wrote to Paul Channon, then an Under-Secretary of State, about Ravendale Securities, another company in Mr Singh's Ravendale Group along with CIC. She had already said in Parliament "it is high time that the department was prepared to examine companies such as Ravendale and make sure they do not operate at other people's expense."

In her letter to Mr Channon, who is now Trade and Industry Secretary, she asked whether he was aware of "extremely serious" allegations already made in the media about Ravendale Securities.

The Financial Services Act, which will introduce an industry-wide investor compensation scheme for investors, will not come into effect until late next year at the earliest.

The final paragraph of Dr McDonald's letter to Mr Channon has a prophetic and ironic ring when one considers the Share Shops' customers, whose deals in Britoil, Telecom and other privatizations have not been fulfilled: "The Government cannot have it both ways—by promoting the sale of shares to individual shareholders, and yet failing to protect those very investors from the shares."

Lawrence Lever

A package to keep the shareholders happy

BRITISH GAS

Anthony Ali, of the organizing bankers, N.M. Rothschild, has said he would welcome subscriptions from all the customers of British Gas. And the inducement to committed? This week Michael Richardson, managing director of corporate finance at N.M. Rothschild, produced figures purporting to show a return of more than 20 per cent for the small investor who opts for gas vouchers.

The total benefit for those who commit the minimum of £50, the first instalment of three for £150 worth of shares, and hold them for a year will be a £10 discount on the gas bill, and a dividend on the share of £5.63. The voucher will be sent out in July 1987, just after the second payment, probably of £50, has been made. For an outlay of £100 the net benefits will be £15.63, which amounts to more than 20 per cent, according to N.M. Rothschild.

The bank says that because the second instalment will be paid in June, an average of £25

will be paid out throughout the year.

Even if you do not like the bank's mathematics, the package of benefits is still attractive. Mr Richardson says the high yield is designed to encourage people not to sell straight away.

There is also a bonus of one share for every 10 held for those who hang on for three years. Mr Richardson believes this should encourage shareholders to remain loyal and not sell immediately, or "stag" the issue.

Although the flotation has not been priced yet—the organizers will wait to judge market conditions before deciding how much to ask—it seems quite clear that British Gas will be cheap enough to tempt the masses. "You can hype people up to inquire, but in the end you must get the price right," says Mr Richardson.

There is a school of thought which says that privatizations are always going to be attrac-



ive. Some say that all the investment talk of the "fundamentals" which affect ordinary share flotations, such as the competition faced by the company, the quality of its management, the likely future demand for its products, is really superfluous in the context of the privatization.

Some might say that the issues will never fall because the Government simply cannot afford them to do so.

But who knows? If the £4.5 billion worth of shares set aside for British Gas employees, customers and other private investors are priced too dearly no one will buy them.

When the application forms finally do appear in the papers a week or two after the pagan festival of consumption known as Christmas will be upon us. British Gas shares may well provide the answer for the financial Santa Claus. Like the TSB, British Gas will welcome applications made on behalf of children.

One key difference, though, is the probability that the substantial investor wanting several thousand pounds' worth of shares will be better

satisfied with British Gas. First dealings in the shares will be at 2.30pm on December 8 after that morning's announcement of the basis on which shares will be allocated. This will be before letters of acceptance are delivered. Quite understandably, the company does not want to wait for letters; as this would take first dealings into Christmas week.

Imagine the fun investors can have, hoping their letter of acceptance will be delivered before the middle of January.

Martin Baker

UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Company	Unit	Price	Change	%
AETNA LIFE INSURANCE	401 St John Street, London EC3V 4DE	10.50	+0.02	+0.2
	Life Fund	10.50	+0.02	+0.2
	Equity	10.50	+0.02	+0.2
	Property	10.50	+0.02	+0.2
	Income	10.50	+0.02	+0.2
	High Yield	10.50	+0.02	+0.2
	Global	10.50	+0.02	+0.2
	Art	10.50	+0.02	+0.2
	Gold	10.50	+0.02	+0.2
	Energy	10.50	+0.02	+0.2
ALLIANCE ASSURANCE	401 St John Street, London EC3V 4DE	10.50	+0.02	+0.2
	Life Fund	10.50	+0.02	+0.2
	Equity	10.50	+0.02	+0.2
	Property	10.50	+0.02	+0.2
	Income	10.50	+0.02	+0.2
	High Yield	10.50	+0.02	+0.2
	Global	10.50	+0.02	+0.2
	Art	10.50	+0.02	+0.2
	Gold	10.50	+0.02	+0.2
	Energy	10.50	+0.02	+0.2

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The Equitable Life

FAMILY MONEY/2

More hopes on the home front

Investments never stay at the top or the bottom for too long. House price increases are finally going to slow down, according to predictions produced by the Henley Centre for the Household Mortgage Corporation.

But for all we know the forecasts may be a little optimistic. The centre predicts a fall in the mortgage rate of around 1 per cent in the period between January and March 1987.

On the other hand we have agricultural land, which has been scraping along the bottom for some time. Land and estate agents Knight Frank & Rutley believe the fall in agricultural land values may have been too steep.

Property victims

The real victims of roaring house price inflation are the first-time buyers. It is they who must scramble for the infamous first rung of the property ladder.

Nationwide Building Society has

just published a handbook aimed at first-time buyers. All the sweet joys of property buying are carefully explained - the stamp duty, the legal fees, the ceiling on tax relief, and the wonderful common law system in England and Wales which permits gazumping and promotes ruthlessness (the Scots have a much better system).

The book is clearly written and well laid out. First-time buyers with Nationwide will at least know the delights they can expect from their initial property transaction.

Pension shares

Pensions, of course, are about to become portable. It must be so - we have been told from official sources. But where on earth, assuming they do become less immobile than at present, are we supposed to carry them?

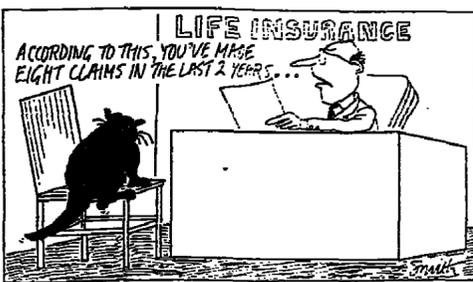
There are about 10,000 small

schemes in Britain, but only 33 per cent of those bother to invest in shares. "We believe that trustees of a large number of self-administered schemes would like to move into this area but lack the expertise to do so," says David Payne, of Henderson.

After the initial minimum commitment of £5,000 further investments may be made in tranches of £1,000. An administration fee of 0.75 per cent per year is charged annually, and every fund carries a front-end charge of more than 5 per cent.

Midland offer

Midland Bank has introduced a new service for customers aged 55 and over, replacing the existing Retirement Service, which was introduced as a precursor to free banking generally. The package is called Fifty-Five Plus. It includes free financial and investment advice (under the Financial Services Bill only independent intermediaries will be obliged to give "best advice") and an "interest only" loan for home improvements or repairs.



used to provide travel discounts, and both private health care and assistance with home security devices will be offered.

Another feature will be access to the bank's Premier Savings Account, which pays a net 2 per cent on balances of £5,000 or more. If the 55-plus person wishes to save a monthly amount in one of Midland's unit trusts the bank will allow a discount of 2 per cent on the usual front-end charge of 5 per cent.

A real Gemini

Lloyds Bank too has been doing its fair share of re-vamping. It has just relaunched a life assurance-linked investment bond rejoining in the name of the Gemini Bond. The bond is available to anyone between the ages of 18 and 60, with a minimum investment of £2,000 and a maximum of £100,000. Half the money is invested in any of 16 life funds (minimum commitment £500 per fund), and the

other half is used to provide growth or income. The charges on investment bonds are similar to those on unit trusts, but in general investment bonds are more attractive for the higher-rate taxpayer.

Prolific predicts

Another chance to invest in Europe is coming our way courtesy of Prolific Unit Trust Managers. Most European share markets have already come a long way rather quickly (hence the Gadarene rush to launch European funds), but Prolific insists there is money to be made.

The emphasis of the new fund will be on France and West Germany with smaller commitments to the Dutch, Italian, Spanish, Swiss and British markets. The offer price of units will be 50p until November 28, with a 1 per cent discount on the initial charge of 5 per cent. The annual levy will be 1 per cent. Details: Prolific Unit Trust Managers, 222 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4JS.



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Two more societies building up for 1987

Two more leading building societies are striding bravely into next year's new world. This week both the Britannia and the Bristol & West societies received formal approval from members for the adoption of new powers under the Building Societies' Act which comes into force next year.

The Britannia, Britain's seventh biggest society, has taken on board more ambitious plans than the Bristol & West. Britannia members will be offered new services in consumer lending (the ability to make unsecured loans, including overdrafts is probably the key freedom established under the new Act), and share dealing. Insurance services will be extended, but all new services will be introduced "gradually".

The Bristol & West's plans do not yet seem to be fully formulated. The society will "by no means" rule out unsecured lending, but regards the introduction of a cheque account as "unlikely". Relatively few societies seem keen on cheques, or "paper money transmission", as the marketing men so pithily term it.

Of the big societies only Nationwide appears really enthusiastic about cheques.

The Halifax has said it wishes to avoid paper money, which is expensive to handle. It wants to start on the next generation of money transmission - the automatic tellers, or holes in the wall, and

direct electronic debiting. The latter is more commonly known as EFTPOS (Electronic Funds Transfer At Point Of Sale). This service is just beginning to be tested in certain supermarkets and at the petrol pumps.

The move to share dealing is particularly interesting. Societies such as the National & Provincial, and now both the Britannia and the Bristol & West, dare to market an alternative form of investment in their own branches.

Building society members are to be offered the opportunity of saving into the medium of shares and unit trusts instead of the solid, dependable (and perhaps slightly dull) deposit account.

The N&P's commitment seems the strongest. It will make research directly available to its customers through electronic links with its broking partners. Bristol & West, on the other hand, will start off with a pilot scheme in just two branches, and no research material will be available directly to the public. Instead a representative from brokers Laing & Crutbank will be on hand to advise.

The society is not prepared to say which two branches will start off the scheme "for competitive reasons".

The year 1987 certainly looks set to be competitive enough for the building societies.

MB

This School Fee Trust Plan could slash your education costs.

School fee plans are not all the same as so many parents might suppose.

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Postcode
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The Equitable Life
You gain because we're different.

Advice to the unwary abroad in the City, or

WHY THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE SHOULD BE STAFFED BY GIRAFFES.

THE sun blazed down on the scorched savannah. The dry grass rustled like sandpaper in the hot breeze. Overhead, the sky was porcelain blue. But the giraffe was donning a sea-green sou'wester. A sunbathing lion opened a quizzical eye and started to roar with laughter. A pack of hyenas cackled hysterically. Undeterred, the giraffe tugged on his wellies, one, two, three and four.

Gnus gnugged each other, whispering and giggling. The giraffe pooh poohed their jibes and unfurled a sober black umbrella. Still, the other animals broiled in the sun. Elephants sported smart new trunks. A long-legged camel shyly adjusted the bikini top on her humps. But the giraffe was studying the skies.

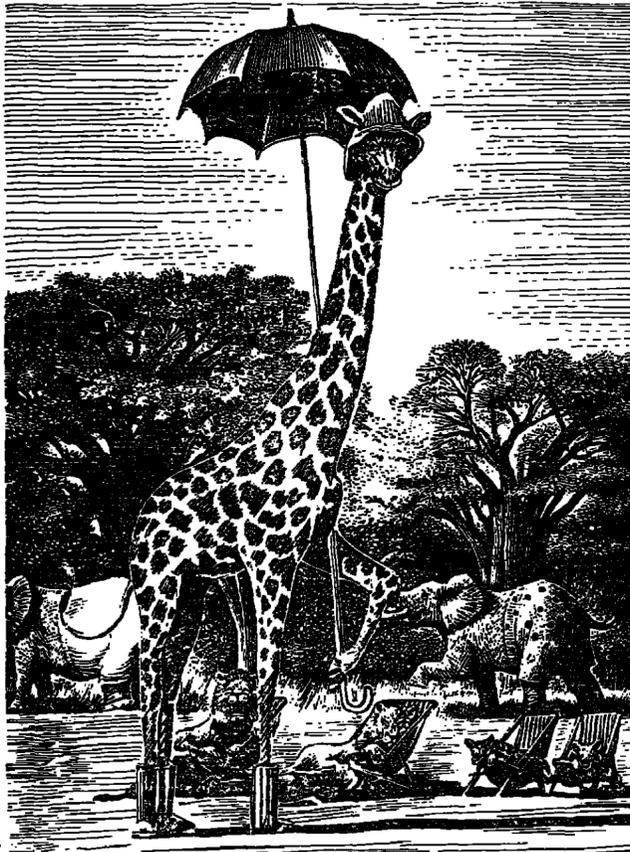
And, sure enough, a little black cloud came scudding in from the west. Then another. Then another. Until at last the sky above was as black as ink. With a violent crack, the clouds split open. The sunbathers were bathed in a torrent of rain.

As they scurried for cover, awash with mascara and suntan oil, the giraffe reflected on the advantages of being the tallest animal of them all. From his lofty vantage point, he'd been able to see the clouds gathering on the horizon.

Like the giraffe, Mercury Fund Managers benefit greatly from their stature. With the vast resources of Mercury Warburg at their disposal and their network of offices all over the world, Mercury can command a superior

view of international stock markets. So there is no one better equipped to detect the slightest shift in the economic climate.

For watertight advice on our ten unit trusts, please write to: The Client Services Director, Mercury Fund Managers Ltd., FREEPOST, London EC4B 4DQ, (01 280 2800) or contact your usual financial adviser.



MERCURY UNIT TRUSTS
Investment by Mercury Warburg Investment Management Ltd.

سكنا من الاجل

FAMILY MONEY/4

Bristol calling expats, have you cash to spare?

SAVINGS

Throughout this month puzzled Spanish television viewers are being bombarded four times a night by an English-spoken advertisement for a British building society savings account. The 30-second commercial, however, is not directed at the natives, but at Britons who have gone to work or retire in the sun.

The exiles are being tempted to invest their spare cash in the Bristol & West's new Overseas Investors Bond. It pays 11.37 per cent and it comes tax-free, thanks to recent legislation which allows banks and building societies to pay interest gross to non-residents.

The Bristol & West's campaign is likely to spearhead a drive by other big building societies for the savings of overseas Britons. The television promotion is being backed up by other advertisements in publications serving the expatriate market. It is being relayed from Gibraltar to southern Spain - and there are reckoned to be half a million Britons living in Spain.

The building societies can do with every fresh source of funds they can find. Receipts have shrunk worryingly in recent months.

Now a survey commissioned by the Trustee Savings Bank discloses that 4.5 million savers are seriously thinking of taking money out of build-

ing societies and investing it elsewhere.

Some are being tempted directly into the stock markets by easy money privatization issues. Others are responding to persistent comparisons from the unit trust industry showing unit trusts to be much better long-term performers than building societies.

The expat market was opened to building societies in the March budget when the Chancellor Nigel Lawson gave them the go-ahead light to pay interest to non-residents without deducting basic rate tax.

As non-residents are not normally liable to pay UK tax, accounts on which tax was deducted at source and not recoverable were things to stay away from - and most expats did. Gross payments, however, which mean three or more percentage points extra, are another matter.

A building society now offers an attractive resting place for money awaiting the owner's homecoming, especially if he or she plans to buy a home. The saver banks for mortgage preference if funds happen to be short.

The Bristol & West, for example, gives a mortgage priority of five times the average savings balance over the previous 12 months, other considerations being in order. The minimum investment in the Overseas Investors Bond is £1,000.

Surprisingly, building societies have been slow to re-

spond to the tax concession. Although many were quick to set up special schemes, there has been little serious attempt to promote them. The Bristol & West initiative should spark others into action.

To have interest paid gross, expat savers have to sign a declaration that they fulfil the requirements of non-residency. These are complicated, and if not complied with could result in a tax clawback.

The building society provides the necessary declaration form, but it is not responsible for checking anyone's resident status or for recovering tax. The rules are explained in a booklet, IR20, which can be obtained free from any Inland Revenue office.

Building society shareholders going abroad can transfer their existing savings into an expatriate account. Those coming home should let the building society know as soon as their resident status is resumed so that the tax treatment of future savings can be adjusted accordingly.

Interest is credited gross from the day after departure to the day before the date of return. But to qualify for the tax concession, anyone going abroad to work full-time under a contract of employment needs to be away for a full tax year - April 6 to April 5 - not 12 calendar months.

So it is worth timing, if possible, the dates of leaving and returning so that a full tax



year can be started as soon as possible, especially if the contract is not expected to last very long. By mistiming the dates, it is possible to spend nearly two years abroad without qualifying for non-residency status and the tax advantage that goes with it.

Because of their financial strength and promotional power, the bigger building societies are most likely to capture the major share of expatriate savings, but as with home savings, the best interest rates are usually found among the smaller fry. The returns offered are linked to both the amount of cash invested, and access to it.

The separate tables set out the terms and conditions of expat accounts offered by the top five building societies, and the best payers - the latter in order of withdrawal notice required and minimum investment at November 5.

A snag with smaller societies is that even with instant access available, they have comparatively few branches, and an overseas worker mak-

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PRUDENTIAL

Prudential Unit Trust Managers Limited - Member of the Unit Trust Association.

Table 1: BEST RATES FOR NON-RESIDENTS

	Notice	Min £	Interest	Paid
Gateway	Instant	1	11.50	Yearly
Coventry	Instant	1,000	11.85 (12.20)	1/2-yearly
Peckham	Instant	2,000	12.4 (12.73)	1/2-yearly
Hampshire	Instant	5,000	12.25 (12.62)	1/2-yearly
Skipton	Instant	10,000	12.25	Yearly
Surrey	Instant	10,000	12.00 (12.36)	1/2-yearly
Property Owners	Instant	20,000	12.04	Yearly
Britannia	Instant	25,000	12.10	Yearly
Hampshire	28 days	500	12.25 (12.62)	1/2-yearly
Portsmouth	30 days	500	12.17 (12.54)	1/2-yearly
Homesale Benefit	60 days	500	12.04 (12.40)	1/2-yearly
Civil Service	60 days	1,000	12.04 (12.40)	1/2-yearly
Scarborough	60 days	10,000	12.70	Yearly
Staffordshire	60 days	10,000	12.46 (12.74)	1/2-yearly
Staffordshire	60 days	25,000	12.75 (13.03)	1/2-yearly
Stafford Railway	90 days	500	12.68 (13.08)	1/2-yearly
Birmingham Midlands	90 days	1,000	12.68 (12.98)	1/2-yearly
Mornington	90 days	1,000	12.84 (13.62)	1/2-yearly
Birm Midlands	2-yr term	2,500	13.03 (13.32)	1/2-yearly
Portsmouth	3-yr term	500	12.71 (13.11)	1/2-yearly

Source: Chase de Vere

Table 2: BIG FIVE GROSS PAYMENTS

	Notice	Min £	Interest	Paid
Abber National	Instant	500	10.37	Yearly
		2,000	10.70	Yearly
		5,000	11.04	Yearly
		10,000	12.00	Yearly
Alliance Leicester	Instant	1	10.50	Yearly
		2,500	11.00	Yearly
		10,000	11.50	Yearly
Halifax	Cardcash	1	8.03	1/2-yearly
	Instant	2,000	10.50	Yearly
		500	10.37	Yearly
		2,000	10.70	Yearly
		5,000	11.04	Yearly
	90-Day	10,000	11.37	Yearly
		500	11.71	1/2-yearly
Nationwide	Instant	1	11.00	Yearly
		10,000	11.50	Yearly
		25,000	12.00	Yearly
Woolwich	90-Day	500	11.7 (12.04)	1/2-yearly

Source: Chase de Vere

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Monthly contributions to this scheme quickly accumulate in a tax-free fund (you can choose from a wide range of investment funds). And because London Life pays no commission you can be sure that every available penny is being invested on your behalf in the scheme.

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Then, when you retire, the fund will pay you a lump sum, again tax-free, and a regular income which you can add to the money left from your business to provide a comfortable retirement.

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To: New Business Department, The London Life Association Limited, FREEPOST, 100 Temple Street, Bristol BS1 6YJ. (No Stamp Required).

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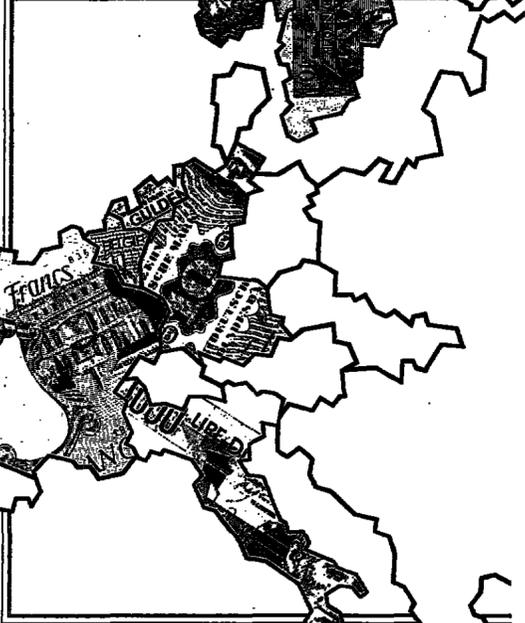
Henderson European Income Trust is invested to provide an estimated gross annual income yield of 4.44% (14.11.86) plus an excellent expectation of capital growth.

This trust complements Henderson's existing European portfolio, from which the Henderson European Trust, measured over the last ten years comes first for performance in comparison to other European trusts. (Planned Savings 1.11.86.)

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You should remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up and you should regard any investment as long term.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Should the unit offer price move by more than 2% during the fixed price period the offer will be closed and units will be allocated at the price ruling on receipt of application.

Distribution of income will be paid on 31st March and 30th September; the first payment being on 31st March 1987. The estimated gross annual yield is 4.44% (14.11.86).

Contract notes will be issued and unit certificates will be provided within eight weeks of payment. To sell units endorse your certificate and send it to the managers; payment based on the ruling bid price will normally be made within seven working days.

Unit Trusts are not subject to capital gains tax; moreover a unit holder will not pay this tax on a disposal of units unless his total realised gains from all sources in the tax year amount to more than £6,300 (1986-7). Prices and yields can be found daily in the national press.

An initial charge of 5% of the assets (equivalent of 5% of the issue price) is made by the managers and is included in the price at the units when issued. Out of the initial charge, managers pay remuneration to qualified intermediaries, rates available on request.

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Trustees: Midland Bank Trust Company Ltd., 11 Old Jewry, London EC2R 8DL.
Managers: Henderson Unit Trust Management Ltd., 26 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1DA.
A member of the Unit Trust Association.

To: Henderson Unit Trust Management Ltd., Unit Trust Department, 5 Baxendale Road, Histon, Cambridgeshire, CB3 0EF. (No stamp required.) Please send me more information about Henderson Unit Trusts.

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Please send me full details of Capital Shares Lion Shares (Special Issue) (tick as appropriate) to: Chelsea Building Society, FREEPOST, Cheltenham, Glos GL51 1BR

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CHELSEA BUILDING SOCIETY
It's what the Lion stands for

How to hunt down a big earner

What is so special about a "special situation"?

The prospects for a singular type of unit trust are examined by **ROD MORRISON**

With world markets becoming more volatile and analysts predicting lower rates of growth, unit trust managers are starting to stress their stock-picking abilities. The days of the easy financial killing are probably over. Profits have to be hunted down rather than picked from the trees.

"Special situations" unit trusts look for the unique opportunities — companies on the verge of industrial breakthrough, takeover prospects — to make money when the rest of the market is stagnant.

In Chase de Vere's latest *Unit Trust Outlook* booklet, Prudential and Legal & General comment that at least a quarter of the standard unit trust portfolio should be placed in their UK-based, stock-picking, special-situation funds.

Both believe the UK market still has potential. Prudential comments: "During the next year we believe that the underlying strength of the economy will reassert itself." But it adds: "We expect uneven performance in the short term."

The Pru's special-situation fund manager, Ted Williams, has the job of keeping up performance while the market



Peter Edwards: sceptical

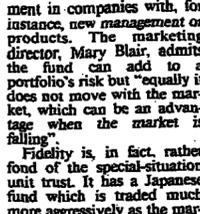
wavers. He believes there are enough opportunities to make money, because "it has been speculative activity which has kept this market going, with overseas money moving in and out every week."

Legal & General shares the overall market optimism. But as if to illustrate the risky nature of special situations, the fund has slumped in the past month. The fund manager, Dave Bradbury, explains: "With special situations, it is going to be a rough ride."

With these funds, much depends on the manager's ability. They invest in anything from takeover situations to long-term recovery stocks. But however good the manager, he or she will not get it right every time. "If I did I would be in the South of France by now," says one manager.

So while recognizing the part special situations can play, Peter Edwards, of Premier Unit Trust Brokers, does not believe they should figure too strongly in a portfolio and is sceptical about why they are being pushed now. He says: "We have seen this before when markets waver. The managers talk their book by saying it is a market for selecting stocks and that, of course, they are the best."

"What they do not stress is the speculative nature of these funds by definition. It would be fairer of them to say, 'We are cautious about London due to political uncertainties or whatever and in the current climate money can be made from special situations.' But potential investors should be



Mary Blair: advantage

made aware of the added risk."

Target's UK special situations fund provides a good example. It performed well until the bottom dropped out of the fund's second line oil stocks in 1985. The managers could not sell them and the fund is still left with one or two. To meet redemptions, it had to sell the good quality stock.

The fund manager, Chris Hills, explains: "One or two of our stockbroking contacts were not as good as we were led to believe." The fund is much more careful with smaller companies now, he says.

In an attempt to redeem the fund's name, Mr Hills says the special-situations fund is likely to receive "all the best ideas" but he is still not happy with its liquidity level of 1 per cent. He adds: "The lesson from Big Bang is that prices are volatile in the short term and high liquidity is needed to take advantage."

But as Fidelity, the UK special-situations fund concentrates on long-term invest-



William Gaunt: advantage

ment in companies with, for instance, new management or products. The marketing director, Mary Blair, admits the fund can add to a portfolio's risk but "equally it does not move with the market, which can be an advantage when the market is falling."

Fidelity is, in fact, the fund of the special-situation unit trust. It has a Japanese fund which is traded much more aggressively as the market is itself more volatile. And there is also an American fund which follows the British model but as the US market now favours the standard growth funds it has not performed.

Dr John Gurney, Allied Dunbar's American special-situations manager, explains: "This will continue for the next few months as investors are playing safe with what they know at present, the large reliable companies." The market, says Dr Gurney, has seen a good deal of take-over activity at all levels which has been exaggerated by the prospect of new tax laws in the New Year.

Though special-situation funds can invest anywhere in a given market, many follow a set pattern. Henderson's UK fund, for instance, is split three ways into long-term small company growth stocks, large holdings, short-term trading situations and other special situations.

The group also offers a Japanese fund but again it is traded more aggressively to take advantage of that market's peculiarities.

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Current account - no interest paid	8 of Scotland	7.58 7.58	01 628 8860
Deposit accounts - seven days' notice required for withdrawals	Barclays Higher Rate		
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£100 to £999		7.13 7.28	01 628 1587
£10 to £99		7.13 7.28	01 628 1587
£1 to £9		7.13 7.28	01 628 1587
£1000 & over		7.58 7.58	01 628 1587
Citibank		7.58 7.58	01 628 1587
Co-operative Bank		7.58 7.58	01 628 1587
C. Hoare & Co.		7.58 7.58	01 628 1587
Hong Kong & Shanghai		7.58 7.58	01 628 1587
Lloyds Bank		7.58 7.58	01 628 1587
Nat Westminster		7.58 7.58	01 628 1587
Royal Bank of Scotland		7.58 7.58	01 628 1587
TSB		7.58 7.58	01 628 1587
Citibank NA		7.58 7.58	01 628 1587



"No go, old boy - the computer's on the blink"

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Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy, Loans Bureau (838 636) between 10am and 2.30pm; see also Prestel no 24808.

Building Societies
Ordinary share accounts - 8.00 per cent. Extra interest accounts usually pay 1-2 per cent over ordinary share rates. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax. Not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

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D Mark 3.64 per cent
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Aetna **Gilt-Edged BOND**

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FAMILY MONEY 17

Saving is a real gift on Christmas Day

With Christmas Day only a few weeks away, now is an ideal time to consider a savings account for any youngsters for whom you are buying a gift. Not only will children appreciate the attractive range of presents that accompany the opening of a special bank or building society account for the young, but they will have the personal aspect of their own account and passbook.

Just as the clearing banks market packages for undergraduates, so an increasing number of building societies and banks have developed a marketing sector for children. The interest rate is quoted net of tax, but the poor fiscal position is counter-balanced by getting youngsters to understand saving, find it "fun" and want to see pocket money appreciate.

Perhaps the most appropriate account for a child where tax will not be deducted is the Post Office National Savings Investment Account, whose rate increased on Wednesday to 11.75 per cent. It can be opened with a £5 minimum but requires a full month's notice of withdrawal and has none of the special attractions.

The National & Provincial, Peckham and Portman Building Societies lead the interest field with 8.25 per cent net. N&P's Junior Savings account has three rates and this is for children with funds of £5,000 and above. After the Trustee Savings Bank, which offers only 5 per cent, this society has the lowest rate of 5.75 per cent for the bulk of the youngsters who have up to £500. A gift, such as a baseball hat, is given when £100 is passed.

Peckham's Jumbo Savings account is much more fun for children aged five to 16. It includes free membership of the junior section of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the World Wildlife Fund and the Royal Society for Nature Conservation. This gives the youngsters free admission to sanctuaries and the chance to take part in nationally organized projects and competitions, provided the child saves any amount between £1 and £50 a month. Details are obtainable from Peckham Building Society, Craylaw House, 1 Copers Cope Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1NB, or branches.

Portman's Young Generation account also pays 8.25 per cent. On opening the child receives a gift pack which includes an animal set with the emphasis on woodland

scenes. He or she also is sent a calendar every year.

Five societies pay 7.5 per cent - Britannia, Chelsea, Derbyshire, Market Harbour, Melton Mowbray. The Brighter Savings account with Britannia lets the child choose from a selection of gifts such as a purse, a wallet, a torch and a financial folder on joining. Piggy savings banks are complimentary. Chelsea Kids account has introductory gifts, and the Derbyshire's Young Savers sends a birthday card and Christmas card - the birthday one includes a competition.

Market Harbour's main children's account, the Junior Saver, pays 6 per cent and includes a quarterly newsletter, gifts on joining (growth chart, pen, balloon, badge), a free ticket to Twycross Zoo and a birthday card. The higher 7.5 per cent is for a regular monthly savings account.

Melton Mowbray's Young Savers Club has a minimum £5 on opening, and a gift bag, containing a present appropriate to the age of the child (ranging from a bib to a digital pen). Birthday and Christmas cards are sent and competitions held.

The clearing banks offer lower rates. The top two are Lloyds and National Westminster on 7 per cent. Lloyds has the Black Horse Young Savers for a £1 minimum deposit and complimentary moneybox, but no gifts or cards. NatWest's Piggy account is so named as the child saves for ceramic pigs, sent when £25 is saved every half year. On opening the child receives the first pig, pencils, a chart and a plastic wallet. Three magazines a year and a birthday card are mailed. It is £3 to open an account.

The Midland's Griffin Savers offers 6.4 per cent. For a £10 deposit, there is a sports bag containing a geometry set, a project folder, a badge, an Oxford Dictionary, a savers' card and a home bank file. It also offers a birthday card and a magazine every six months.

Barclays has a Supersaver account, paying 6 per cent, with a quarterly magazine. There is a free introductory pack

including a ruler and pen. It is worth knowing that if the moneybox at £3 is purchased on signing up, it contains a £2 voucher to be credited to the account.

Two societies offer accounts above 7 per cent: the Marsden (Russell Street, Nelson BN9 7NJ) and Haywards Heath & District (The Broadway, Haywards Heath RH16 3AE). The Junior Income share with the Marsden, which you can open for £1, attracts 7.25 per cent and a free moneybox. The Busy Bee Children's Club Savings Scheme of Haywards Heath offers 7.2 per cent on £500 and above, with a lower 6.75 per cent below this sum. At the age of 18, the account becomes an investment share.

A birthday incentive is provided by the Anglia. It adds an interest bonus, taking the net rate to 7 per cent in total, just before the birthday, and a statement is sent during the birthday month. There is a membership wallet which includes a notepad, a pen and a target savings chart. In addition to a magazine three times a year, the Anglia Top Saver Club introduces youngsters to a new hobby with a "start collecting" gift.

Among the big societies, the Leeds Permanent offers the best rate at 7 per cent for its Young Leader account. It can be opened for £1. The Bristol & West's Snoopy account pays 6.25 per cent with a badge, a balloon and a cardboard cut-out of Snoopy and his house on joining. The Snoopy money box, which costs about £4 in shops, is £1.50. A parent or godparent may like to top up savings with stamps of the character, which cost from 50p to £5.

North Wiltshire Ridgeway (18 Commercial Road, Swindon SN1 5NP) and the Scarborough pay 7 per cent on their Junior accounts. Both send birthday cards and the Scarborough also gives a pen on joining.

Colchester's Kitty Club gives a hexagon-shaped moneybox and a badge to the child joining, paying 6.75 per cent on the savings. It sends a Christmas card. As an encouragement to save, a T-shirt is given when the account reaches £10.

The combined Norwich and Peterborough has a no-frills moneytree account which pays 6.25 per cent, the same rate as the Vernon (26 St

Petergate, Stockport) with its Junior Savings account. On a birthday the child receives a Vernon Bear card and a surprise gift. It can be opened with £5 if the child is under 16.

Paddington writes twice a year to children in Cheltenham & Gloucester's children's scheme with their interest calculation, and on their birthday invites them to collect a gift from their branch as the marmalade sandwiches did not go in the post. Although it pays only 6 per cent, children like the idea of Paddington looking after their savings.

Abbey National Junior Savers adopted Mickey Mouse as its emblem in 1979 and issues a quarterly magazine with small gifts (puzzles, balloons, pencils, writing books); on opening, it pays 6 per cent, like Birmingham Midshires, which gives a free moneybox. Both societies send birthday cards.

For the teenager, Bradford & Bingley's Money Manager Account is ideal. The current pack includes a free tape with investment advice interspersed with pop music. There is also advice on insurance, tax and related financial matters. Like the society's Acorn account, which is designed for children under 14, it pays 6 per cent. In Acorn, children receive a complimentary money box on joining and have a card on their birthday. The gift vouchers can be cashed or credited to a child's account.



The Gateway's Junior Saver sends certificates when a child has saved £50 and £100 respectively. The Greenwich Adopt-a-Duck scheme is novel: the youngster has free membership of the Wildfowl Trust for an initial deposit of £10. Every time an investment is made the child receives a card for a colourful wallchart. (Both these societies pay 6 per cent, as does the Halifax with its little Xtra Club). It has a full membership pack including a mobile, a colouring book and a moneybox in the shape of a house. A quarterly magazine and a birthday card ensure regular reminders.

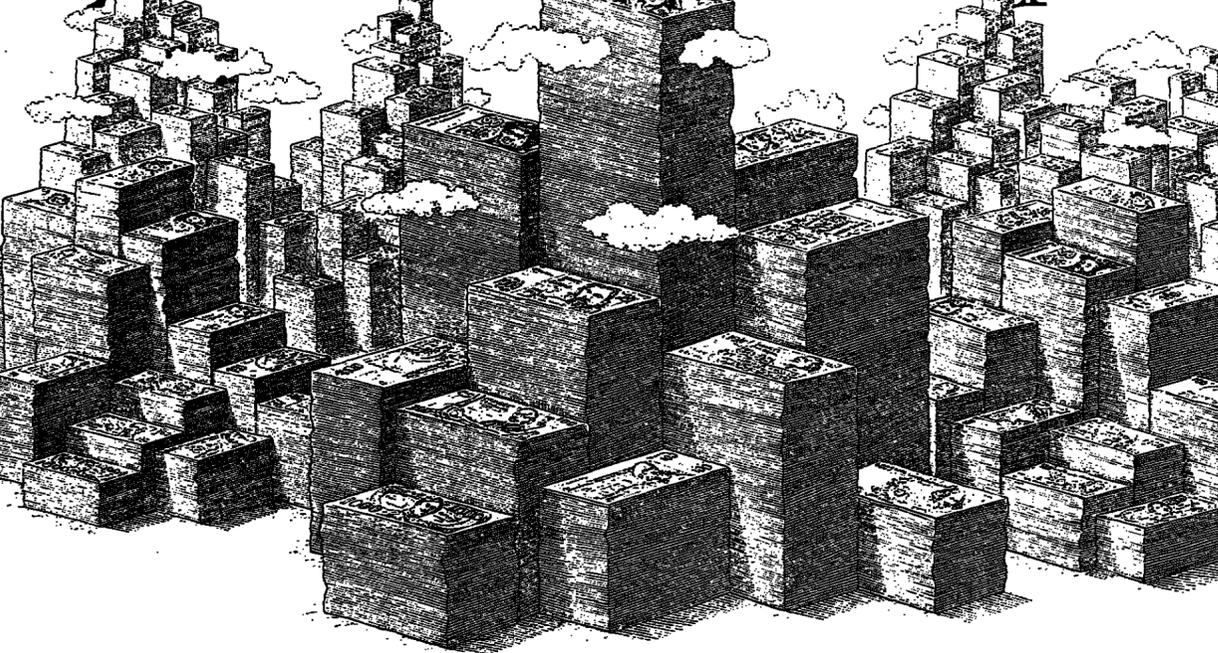
Both the Yorkshire and Mansfield (Regent House, Regent Street, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire NG18 1SS) give additional sums beyond the basic 6 per cent when savings targets are met. The Yorkshire adds £2.50 when £50, £100,



Animal incentives: NatWest offers ceramic pigs, Jumbo promotes the Peckham

Conal Gregory

It isn't only food mountains you will find in Europe.



Sad to say, much of Europe has become renowned for its stockpiles. Now though, something rather more agreeable is on offer. A pile of money. Getting your hands on a stake is simple. Just invest in our Continental Europe Growth Unit Trust. It's the latest in a successful line of Lloyds Bank Unit Trusts investing at home and abroad. Take our German and Japan Growth Unit Trusts, for example. Launched last year, by 28 October, 1986, they had enjoyed capital growth of 49.2% and 50.0% respectively. (That's on an offer to bid price basis with net income re-invested.)

While short term performance is not necessarily any guide to long term future growth, the outlook for our Continental Europe Growth Unit Trust is equally as bright. The French, Italian and Swedish economies have all performed impressively this year. Our portfolio aims to include equity investments in the companies of these and other continental European countries, as appropriate. Naturally, therefore, it will also include some of the world's most

successful companies. BMW. Nestlé. Heineken. Pernod. Volvo. Olivetti. Household names, one and all. The price of units, and the income from them, may go down as well as up. But we see every reason to be optimistic. Customers and non-customers alike can purchase units by filling in the form on the right. (Until 5 December, the initial offer price will be 50p per unit.) Alternatively, call in at any Lloyds Bank branch. Who knows, before long you could be moving mountains. Of money, naturally.

GENERAL INFORMATION
The Trust Deed allows up to 25% of the Fund to be invested in the Second Marche of the Paris Bourse. The Managers may also wish to invest in any other Continental European second-tier market as may be authorised by the Department of Trade and Industry from time to time. The Managers have the right to time their buying and selling of currency to take maximum advantage of foreign exchange markets. They will use currency loans, and any means which may be authorised by the Department of Trade and Industry to hedge the currency risk if such action is considered desirable. The Managers may deal in authorised traded option markets should these become available in Continental European securities.
Based upon the initial offer price of 50p, the estimated gross starting yield will be under 1% per annum. (After 5 December 1986 units may be bought at the offer price then prevailing.) The Continental Europe Growth Unit Trust is a specialist unit trust and the performance is likely to be more volatile than a more broadly based fund. You should bear this in mind when deciding what proportion of your investment should go into the trust.
The price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.
Contract notes will not be issued for the initial offer. Certificates will be despatched at unit holders' risk normally within six weeks of receipt of your cheque.
We offer investors Accumulation Units where net income is automatically re-invested, or Income Units where income is distributed annually on 20 December (or slightly earlier). The

first income distribution will be on 18 December 1987.
CHARGES
The offer price includes an initial charge of 5%. The annual charge is 1% (plus VAT) of the value of the trust, which is deducted from the deposited property.
(The Trust Deed provides that the annual charge may be increased to a maximum of 2% by giving not less than 3 months notice to unit-holders.) The Managers retain the small rounding adjustments. The Managers pay remuneration to qualified intermediaries. Rates available on request.
Unit prices and yields are published daily in leading national newspapers. Units can be sold back to the Managers at not less than the minimum bid price, ruling on receipt of your instructions, calculated to a formula approved by the Department of Trade and Industry. Cheques are normally forwarded within 7 days of receipt of renounced certificates.
Managers: Lloyds Bank Unit Trust Managers Ltd (a member of the Unit Trust Association, Reg. Office: 21 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS. Registered in England No. 886670. Trustees: Alliance Assurance Co. Ltd.
To: Lloyds Bank Unit Trust Managers Limited, FREEPOST, Goring-by-Sea, West Sussex BN12 4BR.

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Unit 5 December 1986 (your investment will be at 50p per unit, thereafter units may be bought at the offer price then prevailing. The minimum initial investment is £500. Additional unit purchases must be for not less than £100.)

Accumulation Units, with income re-invested, will normally be issued. If you prefer Income Units, with income distributed annually, please tick

I declare that I am over 16 years old. Date of Birth if aged between 16 and 18: _____ (joint applicants must sign and attach names and addresses separately.)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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The offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

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GRE Pacific Trust

An outstanding growth record

Since its launch in April 1983, our Pacific Trust has proved itself to be an exceptionally profitable investment, showing a growth of 146.9%* as at 13th November 1986.

Up 77.5% in just one year

In fact the trust has been going from strength to strength. Over the year ending 1st November 1986, it grew by an astonishing 77.5%† putting it among the leaders in Far Eastern trusts.

The trust's aim is long term capital growth through a portfolio of shares covering such countries as Japan, Australia, Hong Kong and Singapore. Areas which offer exceptional opportunities to the astute investor.

Why has this Pacific Trust done so well?

Quite simply because our investment team is highly selective in what it chooses and when. Take Hong Kong and Singapore. In Hong Kong, property prices are soaring and exports are buoyant, so these are the sectors we're in. In Singapore, another volatile market, the economy looks set for an upturn and we're increasing our stake after missing the bad patch.

However, the major economy of the region is, of course, Japan where over 50% of the fund is currently invested.

A rosy future

Here again it pays to be selective. The recent strength of the yen has caused problems for Japan's export industries, but we see attractive opportunities in the home market.

A major programme of public works — such as the bridge across Tokyo Bay — is going to stimulate the domestic economy. Along with falling oil prices, this should benefit the retail and consumer goods sectors, where our portfolio is concentrated.

We also have our eye on the growth economies of the future, particularly Korea and Thailand, where we are poised to increase our holdings.

As at 13th November, the offer price of units was 261.3p and the estimated current gross yield was 0.09% p.a.

2% Bonus

The minimum investment is 250 units and, provided we receive your application by 24th November, we'll throw in a 2% bonus as well, in the form of extra units.

Remember that the price of units, and the income from them, can go down as well as up.

* Offer to bid. † Offer to bid with reinvested income per Planned Savings scenario.

General Information
Applications will be acknowledged on day of receipt. Certificates will follow within 42 days.

Reinvestment will be paid to qualified intermediaries. Rates are available on request.

Income, less income tax, is reinvested in the Trust at six-monthly intervals. Unavailable are sent via vouchers and details of these revised unitholdings on 31st May and 30th November each year.

Benefits on the progress of the Trust are included with each tax voucher distribution.

Management charges as permitted by the Trust Deed are a maximum initial charge of 5% and a maximum annual charge of 1% (plus VAT). In order to keep the charges as low as possible, the annual service charge based on the value of the Trust and deducted from its income, is 1/4% (plus VAT). Should these charges be varied, at least 3 months notice will be given.

Prices and yields are quoted daily in the national press.

Repayments. Units can be cashed at any time at the bid price ruling on receipt of instructions to sell. Payment will normally be made immediately upon receipt of the redeemed certificate(s).

The Trustees is Midland Bank Trust Company Limited.

The Managers are Guardian Royal Exchange Unit Managers Limited, NLA Tower, 12-16 Addiscombe Road, Croydon CR9 6BP.

Member of the Unit Trust Association.

GRE TRUSTS

Prudence in pursuit of the yuppies

If you are young and moudie you are a desirable commodity to the financial services sector. In a new series JOHN ROBERTS looks at what the finance companies are doing to attract the yuppies' attention, starting with one of Britain's best known institutions, the Prudential



The company's 1986 logo and finally a high quality of service. The quality of service in the financial sector — and I'm not excluding the Prudential — has not always been as good as it could or even ought to be.

But the Pru has in many people's eyes been the insurance equivalent of what Woolworth's was in stores — low quality at low prices sold to the poorer members of the community who are price-conscious.

Most of these five million homes the men from the Pru visit every month are in what marketing people and social scientists term the C, D and E social groups. Will it try to sell a wider range of financial services to those people whose propensity to save is marginal or try to shift the emphasis of its business towards better-off As and Bs?

Despite — or perhaps because of — his original profession as an actuary, Mr Corby confessed himself uncomfortable talking in terms of As, Bs and Cs but added: "I have a vision about the Pru it is that no one should enter into a transaction in the financial services market

without at least thinking of the Prudential. That means the whole range of financial services except money transmission which the banks provide quite adequately."

That flies in the face of conventional marketing wisdom, for in failing to focus closely on selected sectors of the public, it is in danger of trying to be all things to all persons. Mr Corby accepts that.

He says: "It is a risk that we cannot avoid. We are too big to go for the niche approach. "Instead we can hope to respond to what different types of customer want in terms of how they buy financial services — some through estate agents, some through our field force of 12,000 and others through the intermediaries such as insurance brokers and other professional advisers. So instead of segmenting the market we segment the marketing."

Financial supermarkets do not feature in the Prudential's plans for the foreseeable future because it sees no evidence of customer demand for them. There is no inherent aversion.

Similar thinking keeps the group from setting up as a retail stockbroker but that could change, although Mr Corby cautions: "We have seen rising stock markets for a long time and I'm always uneasy whenever ideas of this kind are launched on the back of rising markets."

That is as far as you would expect any senior executive at



Brian Corby: 'Dynamism'

the Pru to go in expressing a view of stock markets. Its enormous power in UK equities is almost legendary. For decades, the first port of call for a broker handling a new issue or other operation needing market support would be High Holborn. If you could say the Pru was underwriting the issue, there was every likelihood it would go well. There are a number of respected players in this field today.

In selecting which financial services to offer, the theme at the Pru today is to be customer-driven, so it will almost certainly offer a Personal Equity Plan facility. There one detects an element of anxiety not to make the mistake of past management which failed to exploit the mortgage boom.

Mr Corby admits: "With hindsight, we should have arranged to lend other people's money. Now — late into the market — we are acting as intermediaries. We shall review in time whether to generate funds to lend directly ourselves."

That would involve either starting or buying a building society, which will become possible from next year.

From there, would it not be a logical extension of financial services to make shorter-term consumer credit or hire purchase loans to some of those five million homes visited monthly?

"That point we have not yet reached but it is not far away. We don't generate the appropriate funds," says Mr Corby.

'A need to breed an active approach'

"Nothing could be more demanding to our reputation than to pile into a new service and fail to deliver, so there must be limits on how many new ventures we can undertake. There is the risk of one part of the product range destroying the credibility of another."

"I have a vision of the Pru of people in one part of the business being perfectly happy and confident in promoting and selling products from another part. We need to breed that type of active approach."

Changing the culture of a corporation with 30,000 employees has been a major management task long before the new image logo was launched with armies of staff — about 7,000 in all — conveyed into London for an audio-visual ballyhoo presentation.

"We had to maintain the momentum of change," Mr Corby explains as if apologizing for his role in it all. "We had been building up the idea that the customer is important, not the Pru. The new logo was a symbol and catalyst. People go out a few inches taller but we have to keep that momentum going."

"We've got to keep the qualities which got us where we are — security, size, reliability that we won't suddenly change our policy, whether towards our staff or our investment."

"But we need more enthusiasm. "In the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s the Prudential was responding, sometimes slowly, to what was happening. In the 1980s we have to anticipate the changes, shaping our own future. But the Prudential wouldn't be here if it hadn't had those qualities also at some time in its past."

John Roberts

Deal that is best when a mortgage is at its worst

A rise in interest rates is bad news for home-owners and gilt investors but it works to the advantage of those with cash on deposit. Dearer mortgages are naturally unwelcome, but gilt investors suffer because deposit accounts will offer higher interest than these fixed rate returns.

Thus a rise in interest rates pushes down the demand for fixed interest securities, such as "convertibles", a special type of company security. Convertibles have a built-in "extra" over normal loan stocks. They give the holder the right to convert loan stock into ordinary shares of the company at or within certain future dates. If the holder does not convert before the last date, the stock reverts to a normal fixed interest loan stock.

Companies issue convertibles when they need extra capital and bank borrowing costs are high. They replace high-cost secured loans with a lower fixed rate stock. Such an issue works out cheaper than a rights issue which must usually be pitched lower than the share price and may also need a dividend hike to attract buyers.

So much for the advantage to companies of convertibles, but what is the attraction for the buyer? Simply, the convertible offers fixed interest and the option of buying a company share.

The conversion rights can be at a premium, or a discount to the underlying share. As an example, assume you pay £80 for £100 nominal of 8 per cent stock, which gives you the right to convert to 50 ordinary shares at a time when their market price is 100p.

If you exercise this right, you are paying £80 to buy 50 shares equal to a cost of 160p per share. This is 60 per cent over the market price — far too expensive a way into the ordinary shares.

Any rise in the share price brings down the premium and causes the convertible to rise also, though usually much later. One of the advantages of the convertible is its use in a bear market. The fixed interest supports the price even when the underlying share price itself is falling.

When the time comes to convert, ask yourself four questions to guide you in making the decision. Are the company's prospects good? Will there be other chances to convert? When the last conversion date passes and the convertible becomes a straight fixed interest loan stock, will its price fall? If you convert, will the loss of income be acceptable to you?

Convertibles can be bought from several sources since Big Bang, or through unit trust groups, such as Framlington, which specialize in convertibles, or a mixture of fixed interest stocks. The costs of buying loan stocks direct (quotes here from Phillips & Drew) are: 1.65 per cent on the first £7,000, and 0.55 per cent on the next £7,000, with minimum commission of £20 on sales and £10 on purchases.

Convertibles and their prices

VAT at 15 per cent and stamp duty at 0.5 per cent are extra.

Some current convertibles, their price and premiums (at November 8) are given below. The first two are convertible preference shares where, as is usual, interest is quoted net.

Automated Securities: 5 per cent 2000-2005; offer price 116.5p; yield 6.2 per cent; terms 58,824 shares for £100 nominal of stock between May 31, 1986, and 1999; conversion premium 17.4 per cent.

Guinness: 5.75 per cent 1996-2006; offer price 106p; yield 7.6 per cent; terms 28 shares for £100 of stock on March 1, 1990, annually until March 1996; conversion premium 9.41 per cent.

Hanson Trust: 10 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock 2007-2012; offer price 133½p; yield 7.5 per cent; terms 58.14 shares for £100 stock from February 28, 1990, to 2007; conversion premium 7.8 per cent.

International Leisure: 7.75 per cent 1998-2003; offer price 105p; yield 10.8 per cent; terms 76,932 shares for £100 stock from September 30, 1988, to 1998; conversion premium 12.8 per cent.

Jennie Hawthorne

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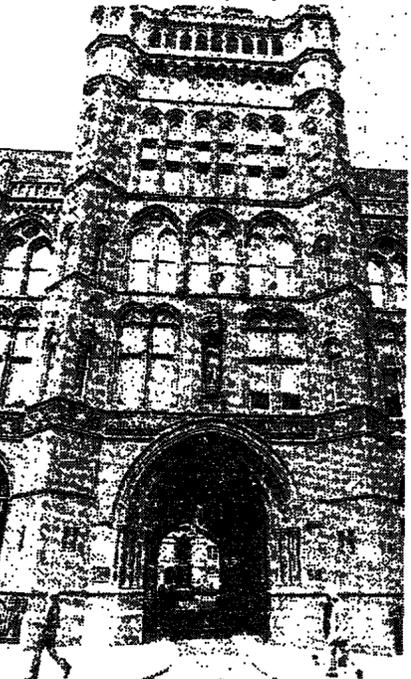
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Fulton Prebon Sterling Ltd., 34-40 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7JT

Chase Manhattan Securities, Portland House, 72/73 Basinghall Street, London EC2V 5DP

Rowe & Pitman Ltd., 1 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2FA

15th November 1986

Familiarity bred a contempt for the

Handwritten note: 150

Familiarity may have bred a contempt too saucy for the French

From David Hands, Rugby Correspondent, Nantes

Brian Lochore, the New Zealand coach, was playing tennis yesterday afternoon, a rare moment of relaxation...

It has, I think, surprised the New Zealanders that the opposition they have encountered during their seven matches has not proved so strong.

When France were beaten in Toulouse last week, it was inevitable, went up for the head of Fouroux...

It is worth remembering that, of that back row, Erbamini will be meeting the All Blacks for the third time in eight days...

France tried to play a physical, set-piece-dominated game in Toulouse and lost. They are better equipped to play in a more expansive style...

has the reputation of being a runner, and Denis Charvet (thanks to injury rather than selectorial wishes) at centre...

What they lack for a fluid game, however, is a continuity man. New Zealand have Hobbs, their captain, to pick up the pieces...

It is worth remembering that, of that back row, Erbamini will be meeting the All Blacks for the third time in eight days...

TODAY'S TEAMS IN NANTES

Table with columns for France, N Zealand, and player names/positions (e.g., S Blanco, J Crowley, P Berot, J Kirwan).

Reference: St Stadium (South Africa)



Loveridge: plays for Harlequins against Oxford University

Laidlaw's return provides hope

By Ian McLauchlan

Jed-Forest, the only team in the first division of the McEwan's National League yet to register a point...

home to their near neighbours, Edinburgh Academicals...

None of these will be more welcome than Whyte, who has been sadly missed by the injury-stricken Stewart's Melville...

Selectors hoping to find merit in leading games A chance to put an end to cup hostilities

By Gordon Allan

By a Correspondent

The various divisional selectors, who chose their teams next weekend, will be out and about today with a special interest in the two John Smith's merit tables...

The divisional championship starts on December 6 when London play the Midlands...

There are two other changes in the Wasps' team. Rose for Elford at No 8 and John Bonner for O'Leary in the second row...

longer than most, have Paul Thomas, the flanker, fit again. Incidentally, James, who is deputizing for Saunders on the Coventry wing...

Loveridge, the former All Blacks scrum half, plays his first full match for Harlequins against Oxford University...

Devotees of the county championship have plenty to occupy them. Yorkshire and Durham are unbeaten in the north and play each other next Saturday...

TODAY'S TEAM NEWS

Nottingham v Saracens

At the request of the Midlands, last Saturday's Nottingham v Saracens match was postponed...

Gloucester v Broughton P

Gloucester and Broughton play at 2.30pm on Saturday...

Moseley v Rosslyn Pk

Boyle, the Lions lock, is his first senior outing for Moseley...

Ldn Scottish v Richmond

MacKin, Campbell-Lamerion and Weir return to the London Scottish...

Bristol v London Welsh

John Flynn, the scrum half, returns from injury today...

Selectors alter plans on account of protest

By George Ace

Expected widespread disruption throughout the province today on account of the Loyalist protest at the Anglo-Irish Agreement...

Welsh delay

The Welsh Rugby Union has delayed the appointment of this season's three-man international panel of referees...

GOLF

Faldo left trailing by Azinger

Hawaii (AFP) - Paul Azinger made good use of an old putter as he secured a second round 65 to move into a two-stroke lead...

Baker-Finch goes clear in search for first victory

Melbourne (AFP) - Ian Baker-Finch, of Australia, opened up a three-stroke lead at the halfway stage of the Australian Open championship...

Ozaki keeps it in the family

Gotemba (AFP) - Japan's Masashi Ozaki sank an eagle and five birdies here yesterday to share the lead with his compatriot, Yasuhiro Yamagata...

Lora defends

Barranquilla, Colombia (Reuters) - Miguel Lora, a Colombian, makes the third defence of his World Boxing Club bantamweight title...

ROWING

Floodlight finish for fours crews

A record 525 crews have entered the 32nd Head of the River fours race (sponsored by Fellers) over the first four days...

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Law Report November 15 1986

Withdrawn case no bar to extradition

Regina v Governor of Pentonville Prison and Another, Ex parte Harbige (No 3) Before Lord Justice May and Mr Justice Mcowan

Mr Alan Newman for Mr Harbige in the application for judicial review, Mr Harbige in person in the application for habeas corpus, Mr John Spinks, QC and Mr Christopher Smith, QC, for the Governor of Pentonville Prison and the US Government, Mr Nigel Fleming for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE MAY said that the arguments in both applications were based fundamentally on the same grounds, arising from the provisions of section 3(3) of the Extradition Act 1870 and the terms of article VI of the Anglo-US Extradition Treaty (SI 1976 No 2144).

The applicant's case was that the application set out in the Act and in the Treaty to the initiation of extradition proceedings had not been satisfied, so that his detention pending extradition proceedings had been unlawful.

The proceedings for judicial review it was said that any attempt by the secretary of state to issue a warrant for the surrender of the applicant to the US authorities would be unlawful in that the preconditions were not satisfied.

The applicant had appeared before the Winchester Justices on October 3, 1985 to answer a charge alleging an offence under section 1(1)(a) of the Theft Act 1968.

The 1870 Act provides by section 3(3) that a fugitive criminal who has been accused of some offence within English jurisdiction not being the offence for which he is sought shall not be surrendered until after he has been discharged, whether by acquittal or on expiration of his sentence or otherwise.

draw the first complaint did not amount to an acquittal. The order involved no more than the consent of the justices that the question of the guilt or innocence of the defendant in the summons should be withdrawn from their cognisance, that is, that they should not adjudicate upon it.

It seemed quite clear that the inquiry into the offence was not a prosecution, but an inquiry into the offence which is an indictable offence without beginning the inquiry into it.

The predecessor to section 6(1) of the 1952 Act was section 5 of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 which so far as relevant was in the same terms.

The Lord Chief Justice considered that there is little authority on this matter, but I derive considerable assistance from an Irish case in 1912, Rex (McDonnell) v Tyrone Justices (1912) IR 40.

In the case of Falles CB said: "In my opinion, the person being by the justices to withdraw the first complaint did not amount to an acquittal. The order involved no more than the consent of the justices that the question of the guilt or innocence of the defendant in the summons should be withdrawn from their cognisance, that is, that they should not adjudicate upon it."

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The 1870 Act provides by section 3(3) that a fugitive criminal who has been accused of some offence within English jurisdiction not being the offence for which he is sought shall not be surrendered until after he has been discharged, whether by acquittal or on expiration of his sentence or otherwise.

Employee restrained from working for rival

Evening Standard Co Ltd v Henderson Before Lord Justice Lawton and Lord Justice Balcombe

His contract of employment provided: "It is understood that your entire services are to be devoted to the interests of the company..."

During 1986 it became known that a rival newspaper publisher, Mr Robert Maxwell, was to publish a new newspaper in the London area which, if started, was likely to be a rival to the plaintiff's paper.

It was obvious that if the proposed newspaper could obtain the services of an experienced production manager such as the defendant as soon as it started it would benefit that paper.

In September 1986 the defendant told the plaintiff that he wished to terminate his contract on November 7, 1986, giving two months' notice which was required to give under his contract.

It became known that he was leaving in order to join the proposed rival paper. The plaintiffs applied for an injunction to restrain him from doing so during the period for which his contract ought to run.

But it was true law that employees could not get an injunction against an employer under a contract for personal services to enforce a negative covenant, if the consequence would be to put the employee in the position of either having to go working for the employers or carrying on working for them.

The plaintiffs decided that one way out of this problem was to offer to pay the defendant his salary and provide the other contractual benefits until such time as his notice, if in proper form, would have run out.

Another offer by the plaintiffs was that they would be willing to have the defendant working for them during the notice period, and, as the defendant had continued to work since the notice of resignation, it was not possible that he could do so.

The plaintiffs had not accepted the defendant's repudiation of the contract, and it was the law, so far as the Court of Appeal was concerned, that the plaintiffs could still in existence.

The court had to decide the balance of convenience. If the defendant left today and took himself off to the rival paper the plaintiffs would undoubtedly suffer damage which it would be difficult to quantify. On the face of it the defendant should not be allowed to do the very thing which he had contracted not to do.

The order of the court must not reduce the defendant to starvation or idleness but that persons were very great and there was a temptation for employees to break their contracts of employment and go to other employers.

Assuming there was no question of confidential information, as the law stood they could snap their fingers at their old employers. That was a most unsatisfactory situation and it was time the court examined the matter fully.

Lord Justice Balcombe delivered a concurring judgment. Solicitors: Stanley & Simpson North; Lovell White & King.

RACING: DAVID ELSWORTH SET TO TAKE THE WEEKEND'S TOP PRIZES AT ASCOT AND NEWCASTLE

Brown poised for a repeat performance at Ascot

When that effective jockey Colin Brown rode the first treble of his career at Sandown Park a fortnight ago Desert Orchid and Course Hunter were two of the contributors...



Desert Orchid can gain another course victory at Ascot today in the H & T Walker Goddess Chase

Irish cheers greet Ibn Majed after inspired victory

Raucous Irish cheers of delight greeted Ibn Majed in the unsaddling enclosure at Ascot yesterday after Chuck Spares' talented four-year-old had beaten Gave Brief in the A.T. Cross Hurdle...

Alhaan can end Irish Flat season in style

Earlier this month Sheikh Hamdan Al Maktoum won the Melbourne Cup with At Talaq. At Leopardstown this afternoon his colours can again be successful carried in the November Handicap by Alhaan on the final day of the Irish Flat season...

The Doncaster sales 14 months ago. Mercy Rimell was also thrilled with the performance of Gave Brief, the winner of the 1983 Champion Hurdle...

This manoeuvre won him the race as Gave Brief was travelling easily turning into the home straight, but then found the weight and pace telling and was finally beaten six lengths. "This ought to put us on the map," said a delighted Spares. "I've always said he was a good horse and now he's proved it again. We'll come back here for the Long Walk Hurdle in December. He'll have a small prep race before the big one, the Stayers Hurdle at Cheltenham."

What his Sandown race showed was that Desert Orchid is every bit as effective over 2 1/2 miles, which is over 200 yards more than the 200 yards of the Macteson Gold Cup at Cheltenham. The word at Sandown was that Desert Orchid, trained by David Elsworth, would be better for the race, yet he still managed to beat Very Promising by seven lengths when in recent 25th. Last Saturday Very Promising went on to highlight the form by winning the Macteson Gold Cup at Cheltenham. What his Sandown race showed was that Desert Orchid is every bit as effective over 2 1/2 miles, which is over 200 yards more than the 200 yards of the Macteson Gold Cup at Cheltenham.

Elsworth can take the Foodbrokers and Primula Fighting Fifth Hurdle with Robin Walker, who reminded us last Saturday that a smart horse he is when winning at Cheltenham. Tom Sharp and Ballydunroe are his obvious dangers. Why Forget (1.15) and Fergy Foster (1.45) are my other principal favourites at Gosforth Park. Finally, following that stout effort against Vno Festa at Sandown Jimparze looks the one to be on for the EBF Ettington Handicap Hurdle at Warwick.

ASCOT Selections By Mandarin. 1.00 Robin Goodfellow. 1.30 FRENCH UNION (nap). 2.05 Desert Orchid.

2.5 H & T WALKER GODDESS CHASE (United Handicap; Grade II; £18,584; 2m 4f (7 runners))

HUNTINGDON Selections By Mandarin. 1.0 Easter Festival 1.30 Royal Gambit 2.0 Gleancru. 2.30 Tenzing. 3.0 Pukka Major. 3.30 Sandcastle.

212-211 GOLDEN WHISTLE (C) J Gifford 7-10-0. 214 4PB GEE-A G Hubbard 7-10-0. 216 38P SHALING CAVALIER A Meehan 10-1-0.

ASCOT Guide to our in-line racecard. 103 (12) 0-432 TIMEFORM (C) B J Ryan 9-10-0.

FORM CHARCOAL WALLY (11-10) will strip filler for seasonal debut when 1741 Al to Captain Dany 2nd to Origan...

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212-211 GOLDEN WHISTLE (C) J Gifford 7-10-0. 214 4PB GEE-A G Hubbard 7-10-0. 216 38P SHALING CAVALIER A Meehan 10-1-0.

1.0 KENNEL GATE NOVICE HURDLE (£2,056; 2m) (8 runners)

2.5 SNOW HILL HANDICAP HURDLE (£9,700; 2m) (8 runners)

3.5 RIP HANDICAP CHASE (£5,415; 3m) (8 runners)

212-211 GOLDEN WHISTLE (C) J Gifford 7-10-0. 214 4PB GEE-A G Hubbard 7-10-0. 216 38P SHALING CAVALIER A Meehan 10-1-0.

FORM ROBIN GOODFELLOW (11-10) was well backed when an easy B winner from Pukka Place (11-0) at Newbury...

FORM CHARCOAL WALLY (11-10) will strip filler for seasonal debut when 1741 Al to Captain Dany 2nd to Origan...

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212-211 GOLDEN WHISTLE (C) J Gifford 7-10-0. 214 4PB GEE-A G Hubbard 7-10-0. 216 38P SHALING CAVALIER A Meehan 10-1-0.

1.30 MANICOU HANDICAP CHASE (£6,368; 2m) (5 runners)

3.0 AURELIUS HURDLE (3-Y-O; £3,837; 2m) (10 runners)

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212-211 GOLDEN WHISTLE (C) J Gifford 7-10-0. 214 4PB GEE-A G Hubbard 7-10-0. 216 38P SHALING CAVALIER A Meehan 10-1-0.

NEWCASTLE Selections By Mandarin. 1.15 Why Forget. 1.45 Fergy Foster. 2.15 Robin Wonder.

FORM OUT OF THE GLOOM (11-9) best BALLYOURROW (11-0) a neck in the event last year with TOPPING TANNERS (11-0)...

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212-211 GOLDEN WHISTLE (C) J Gifford 7-10-0. 214 4PB GEE-A G Hubbard 7-10-0. 216 38P SHALING CAVALIER A Meehan 10-1-0.

1.45 W.M. WAILES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,074; 2m 4f) (6 runners)

FORM GEMARNO (11-2) 8th and ALICIA EXPRESS (11-2) in the rear behind Impage (11-2) at Carlisle...

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212-211 GOLDEN WHISTLE (C) J Gifford 7-10-0. 214 4PB GEE-A G Hubbard 7-10-0. 216 38P SHALING CAVALIER A Meehan 10-1-0.

FORM STRANDS OF GOLD (11-4) went down by a head to Cross Master (11-4) in the Sun Alliance at Cheltenham...

FORM GEMARNO (11-2) 8th and ALICIA EXPRESS (11-2) in the rear behind Impage (11-2) at Carlisle...

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212-211 GOLDEN WHISTLE (C) J Gifford 7-10-0. 214 4PB GEE-A G Hubbard 7-10-0. 216 38P SHALING CAVALIER A Meehan 10-1-0.

2.15 FOOD BROKERS & PRIMULA 'FIGHTING FIFTH' HURDLE (Grade II; £9,554; 2m 120yds) (10 runners)

FORM GEMARNO (11-2) 8th and ALICIA EXPRESS (11-2) in the rear behind Impage (11-2) at Carlisle...

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212-211 GOLDEN WHISTLE (C) J Gifford 7-10-0. 214 4PB GEE-A G Hubbard 7-10-0. 216 38P SHALING CAVALIER A Meehan 10-1-0.

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212-211 GOLDEN WHISTLE (C) J Gifford 7-10-0. 214 4PB GEE-A G Hubbard 7-10-0. 216 38P SHALING CAVALIER A Meehan 10-1-0.

Course specialists. Trainers: Wm Elsworth, J Gosforth, M Hamilton, J Jolly, M Stammers, M Sweeney, P Tuck, M Waghorn. Jockeys: J Bailey, G Bunting, C Day, M Dwyer, J Hanlon, B Hewson, M Hills, J Lister, M Lynam, J McCall, M McEntee, M Meade, M Mitchell, M O'Brien, M O'Neill, M O'Neil, M O'Shea, M O'Sullivan, M O'Winey, M Pegg, M Pinder, M Quinn, M Rafter, M Ryan, M Smith, M Tizzard, M Waghorn, M Wiggins, M Wilson, M Woodhouse, M Woodman, M Woodman, M Woodman.

RACING

Ground is the key for top British challenger

Teleprompter, the mount of Tony Ives, is the sole British hope in the Washington DC International at Laurel Park tonight...

LAUREL PARK

Going soft. WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL. 1.512 PALM BLVD Turf (14 runners) \$167,532 1m 21 Turf (14 runners) \$167,532 1m 21 Turf (14 runners) \$167,532...

Yesterday's results

Ascot. 1.20 (2m) 1. MRS PARKER (R. Flower) 11-20; 2. GARDNER (D. Davies) 11-20; 3. ALDO (A. J. Cook) 11-20...

Market Rasen

1.15 (2m) 1. Desleeze (S. Woods) 5-1; 2. Patrick's Star (P. G. 3) 5-1; 3. Ripper (S. 25-1); 4. Jay Crowned (L. 2m) 5-1...

Dickinson stable on the double

Monica Dickinson, the trainer, and her jockey Graham Bradley, brought home a short priced double over both of whom started 2-1 on favourites at Market Rasen yesterday...

Coventry's class act opens on the White Hart stage

When Coventry City lost 5-0 to Liverpool in April last season, a defeat which precipitated the dismissal of Don Mackay as manager, only the most incurable optimist would have given them any chance of avoiding relegation...

TODAY'S TEAM NEWS

Aston Villa (18) v Chelsea (19). Shaw may play his first league game in nearly seven months for Villa, who have doubts about Higgins and Gernon...

Dein's appointment

The Arsenal vice-chairman David Dein has emerged as the new man on the Football League Management Committee...

TRAMPOLINING

The height of control. The Hermes World Cup, which takes place this weekend at Crystal Palace national sports centre, has attracted the largest ever entry since this annual event first took place seven years ago...

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON. GREGORY: Under-20 International (England) v Sweden (1986) 15-12, 15-12, 15-12. NORTH AMERICA: National League (NHL) Boston Bruins 4, Edmonton Oilers 3...

FOOTBALL: LOGIC DEFIED AT HIGHFIELD ROAD



Coventry's Cyril Regis, playing better than ever.

Telford poised to savage Burnley

several vital Cup goals. Altrincham and Enfield, the other two regular giant-killers of recent years, both face non-league opposition today...

Clough backs Luton scheme

Brian Clough has backed Luton's controversial ban on away supporters on the eve of Nottingham Forest's tie to Kenilworth Road...

CRICKET: CROWD TROUBLE TAKES THE SHINE OFF VICTORY

West Indies take the series. West Indies set to make 149, had to wait hard before they won the third one-day international with three balls to spare...

Women back at Lord's

Women's cricket teams will play at Lord's for only the second time when the Australians visit England next year.

WOMEN'S CRICKET

Women's cricket teams will play at Lord's for only the second time when the Australians visit England next year. The first women's match to take place at headquarters between England and Australia was in 1934...

Football v Mrs Thatcher

Macfarlane taken to task by FA chairman

BERT MILLICHIP (right), the Football Association chairman, replies to Neil Macfarlane. I must take issue with the sorry chapter of inaccuracies and half-truths in the extract from Neil Macfarlane's book Sport and Politics published in The Times on October 28...

Treasury takes but gives not

Mr Macfarlane makes a great deal of the financial mismanagement of the FA, but he is in a dangerous position. He is in a dangerous position.

It takes a disaster to start dialogue

The initial attitude of the current administration to football hooliganism is illustrated by the speed with which they dismissed the very useful working party which had been set up by Dennis Howell in 1974.

Clough backs Luton scheme

Brian Clough has backed Luton's controversial ban on away supporters on the eve of Nottingham Forest's tie to Kenilworth Road...

WOMEN'S CRICKET

Women's cricket teams will play at Lord's for only the second time when the Australians visit England next year.

BOWLS

Experience wins out for Wood. Conbridge, near Glasgow, becomes the world capital of running bowls every February when it hosts the world championship...

WOMEN'S CRICKET

Women's cricket teams will play at Lord's for only the second time when the Australians visit England next year.

WOMEN'S CRICKET

Women's cricket teams will play at Lord's for only the second time when the Australians visit England next year.

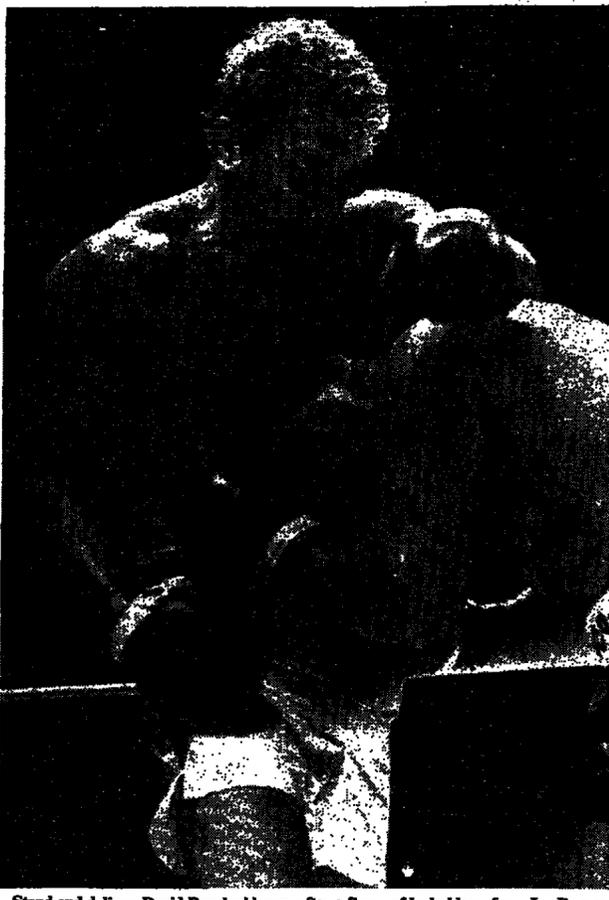
WOMEN'S CRICKET

Women's cricket teams will play at Lord's for only the second time when the Australians visit England next year.

BOXING

Bugner wins but bitter Bey blames the judges

Sydney, Joe Bugner, the 36-year-old former British, Commonwealth and European heavyweight champion completed stage two of his comeback...



Stand and deliver. David Bey doubles up after a flurry of body blows from Joe Bugner.

ICE SKATING

Streatham pair's strong challenge

Nine couples have entered for today's British Ice Dance championship at Nottingham. It is many years since we had such strength in numbers...

SWIMMING

Rivals to answer speed call

Adrian Moorhouse, Britain's leading breast-stroke swimmer, eager for top class racing opposition to sharpen his speed...

RUGBY LEAGUE

Bread and butter is welcome relief

There is brief respite for the stuttering disappointments of international Rugby League as the clubs return this weekend...

HOCKEY

Staffs turn to speed and skill of Sherwani

Imran Sherwani, England's World Cup outside left, will lead the Staffordshire attack in tomorrow's Midlands final against Worcestershire...

YACHTING

Challengers forced to modify in NZealand's wake

Fremantle (Reuter) - America's Cup challengers are again modifying their boats in their efforts to cope with unpredictable winds and the seemingly invincible New Zealand...

Three more casualties in transatlantic race

The first leg of the BOC Challenge from Newport to Cape Town proved almost calamitous with three yachts damaged in collisions at the start...

WEEKEND FOOTBALL, RUGBY AND OTHER FIXTURES

Table of football fixtures including FA Cup, Scottish Premier Division, Scottish First Division, Scottish Second Division, and other regional leagues.

Table of rugby fixtures including Rugby League, Rugby Union, and other regional leagues.

RECORD SNATCH

Sofia (Reuter) - Nica Vlad, of Romania, set a world record of 200.5kg in the snatch in the 100kg category...

MILLWARD REWARD

The Hull Kingston Rovers coach, Roger Millward, capped 29 times by Great Britain at stand-off half...

BASKETBALL

PROBATIONAL NATIONAL CUP: Gloucestershire (6.0), Gloucestershire (6.0), Gloucestershire (6.0)...

HANDBALL

BRITISH LEAGUE: Tynes 77 v Liverpool (Cumbria), 2.15.

ICE HOCKEY

NORWICH UNION CUP FINAL: Five Flyers (Norwich) 2-0 (2.0)...

VOLLEYBALL

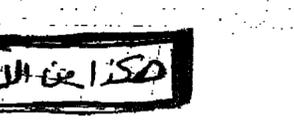
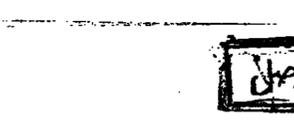
ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND NATIONAL LEAGUE: Dundee (1.0)...

OTHER SPORT

SOFTBALL: Tynes 77 v Liverpool (Cumbria), 2.15.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

Table listing regional television variations for Saturday and Sunday, including BBC1, BBC2, and other channels.



SPORT

Carrick steps into the breach

By Peter Ball

Yorkshire have changed their captain for the sixth time in nine years. After a half-hour discussion, the county's general committee yesterday approved the dismissal of David Bairstow and the appointment of Phil Carrick as his successor by a 12-7 majority.

Carrick, aged 34 and the vice-captain, had been expected to succeed Bairstow when it became known the wicketkeeper's tenure was in doubt, and the cricket committee were solidly in favour of the change with only one dissenting voice. Brian Close, the chairman of the cricket committee, however, confirmed that several other names had been discussed and the vote on the general committee suggests that Carrick, who is only on a one-year playing contract, will come under close scrutiny.

Close refused to accept that an appointment for a player on only a one-year contract was unusual. "That has never been any different but it is up to him now to do the job well."

Close said he was not concerned about Carrick's own form last season, when the slow left-hander took only 31 championship wickets, and 36 first-class, at over 43 runs apiece. His fielding also brought criticism from some quarters.

"I felt that his bowling knowledge will be important, given that is the particular department which has not been as good as it ought to have been. The real clincher in the decision was experience, particularly in the field."

Bairstow's closeness to Boycott means the decision will be seen as a further indication of the committee's desire to close the book on an era. The side had little success under Bairstow, and the county hope that players who felt restricted by the presence of Boycott, particularly the younger players, will now blossom in a freer environment. Many people will watch with interest to see if that really happens.

Rebels win

Oudtshoorn (AFP) — The touring rebel Australian team cruised to a comfortable victory in their first match of their South African tour against the Southern Cape provincial side here yesterday, with both the captain Kim Hughes and John Dyson hitting centuries.

SCS: Australia 215 for 2 (50 overs); KJ Hughes 122 not out; J Dyson 100 not out; Southern Cape 108 for 8.

England acquire timely resolve to turn the tide

From John Woodcock, Brisbane

England put their recent horrors behind them when the first Test match began here yesterday. After being put in to bat, they turned what had threatened to be ill-fate into good fortune. With bad light and rain allowing only nine overs after tea, they ended the day on 198 for two.

The innings was held together by Athey and given its impetus by Gatting, when he came in at the fall of the first wicket, partly in the hope of bringing Gower a change of luck. Then, after Athey and Gatting had added 101 for the second wicket, Lamb and Athey made an unbroken 82 together for the third.

At the finish, Athey was within reach of becoming only the fourth England player to score a Test hundred in Brisbane. I say England player, as distinct from English man, because Greig was one of them. The others were Hendren and Leyland. That there have been so few must account, to some extent, for England's poor record here.

Athey played the innings as if he were a batsman, and a good one. It was as timely as it was resolute, and required a good deal of hard work in the morning, if not quite all it would have done against an attack of more genuine quality. Australia's one vintage contribution to the day was the evening thunderstorm — one which until the early 1950s, before pitches were covered, would have left us with all the excitement of a sticky wicket today.

England's choice of two spinners had to be seen as an indictment of the form of their faster bowlers. They will come in useful, even so, should the ball turn. To that extent, it now suits England better to have batted first, though, given the chance, they were intending to bowl. It was the sixth time in a row that Border had won the toss for Australia.

Lawson's absence, still suffering with an injured arm, robbed Australia of by far their most threatening bowler, whose 11 for 134 in the Test match here in 1982 had most to do with England's defeat. The faster bowlers with which Border was left to turn to, Australia's advantage had taken only 31 Test wickets between them at over than 40 runs apiece.

There was a small army of former Australian cricketers to be heard muttering about what Davidson, or Lillee, or Walker, or countless others

Scoreboard

Table with 2 columns: Player, Runs. Includes England (198) and Australia (108) scores.

would have "done out there". That was not entirely fair to the tyros, not least because the morning was bright and sunny, but Reid, Matthews and Hughes, in their anxiety and fullness of length that was so important, as well as the pace to be disappointing. As for the left-arm line of attack, those who practised it, Reid and Chris Matthews, seldom swung the ball awkwardly.

FOOTBALL

Congestion at top of table a blessing for Ferguson

By Clive White

Liverpool may have regained their traditional top-of-table position but that is where the similarity between this and other seasons of Merseyside dominance ends. Mathematically speaking, six clubs are capable of overhauling the champions before they have the chance to reply in tomorrow's televised game against Sheffield Wednesday at Anfield.

No club in the first division are more than two points adrift of the one above them in the most compact

championship race in years. It is a fact to cheer the likes of Alex Ferguson, the new manager of a Manchester United side languishing in 20th position yet only 13 points behind the leaders. Faced with Oxford United's unbeaten home record last week, today he travels to Carrow Road where Norwich City have lost just once all season. His appointment could have been better timed to give him the advantage of a home game or two.

By coincidence Ferguson's success today will depend largely upon the opposing performance of a young man who has every reason to make one change at right back where he had no hesitation in bringing Siveback back from injury in place of Duxbury. Doubtless grayer surgery than that will be necessary before United can be restored to full health.

Manchester United will announce a loss of £984,665 when they present their 1985/6 balance sheet to shareholders at the annual meeting on December 4.

Celtic put on the style but are wary of record

By Hugh Taylor

Although they are firm favourites to beat Dundee United at Parkhead today, Celtic will start the match with more than a tinge of apprehension. The champions may be securely perched at the top of the premier division table, two points ahead of United, their nearest rivals, and with a game in hand; they may be playing with more style and authority; but Celtic cannot forget that the statistics of their recent games against their Dundee rivals make unpleasant reading.

United, indeed, appear to be much more at home at Parkhead than Celtic and since season 1982-83 Celtic have recorded only one victory there in matches against United, a 2-0 win four seasons ago. On the other hand, Celtic have won three times and there have been four 1-1 draws. In four championship matches last season, Celtic could take only one point and surrendered nine goals, this season the result against United was a draw at Tannadice.

Celtic should consolidate their League lead but they know that only a top class display will do. Rangers, who were surprisingly beaten by Motherwell at Ibrox last week, have been

action and a certain rhythm, but he really is a beanpole.

By lunch, Gatting and Athey had added 70, Gatting having cleared the air by then with five, hard-punctured boundaries. The odd ball passed the bat, two of them in an over from Waugh, medium-paced and of medium height. Hughes, a big, dark, bushy-looking chap, and Matthews, fair and strongly built, looked hardly ready for Test cricket. The morning had given England their best session of the tour when they most needed it. Border's bowlers, for their part, had looked very raw.

Athey continued through the afternoon to take thoroughly good care of himself. What aggressive strokes he did play were hooks. Mostly, he left the attacking to Gatting, whose 61, made in just over two hours, included 11 fours. The captain was beginning to steam along when he was out a trifle unluckily. He had driven the first ball of an over from Hughes through extra cover for four, flat-batted the next ball back over the bowler's head for four, and then had another cover drive brilliantly stopped by Ritchie. The following ball, an inswinger that would have missed the leg stump, bowled him off his pads.

The greatest danger to Lamb seemed to be his confidence. He was always looking for runs. With Athey also by now allowing himself the luxury of a drive or two, England were making better progress than at any time when a storm which had been building up during the afternoon, chose the Gabbra as its main target. For a while before it did so, play continued in poor enough light to have brought a much earlier stoppage against a fiercer attack. That England seemed happy enough to continue until the rain began reflected as well as anything what the day had done to their disposition.



Leading from the front: Gatting, the England captain, on the attack at the Gabba yesterday

Noah ousts Kriek and Pimek beats Pate to defy rankings

By Rex Bellamy

Yannick Noah, a Frenchman with a home in New York, and Libor Pimek, a Czechoslovak with a home in Antwerp, were the first players to reach the singles semi-finals of the Benson & Hedges championships at Wembley, yesterday. Pimek defied the world rankings for the second time in three matches by beating David Pate 6-7, 6-2, 6-2 and Noah beat Johan Kriek 7-6, 6-4.

Pimek ranks 75th in the world and has advanced to the semi-finals of only one other Grand Prix tournament this year. Aged 23, he is 6 ft 5 inches tall but, at 12 stone 4 lb, sparsely built. He is the easiest player to recognize from a distance because his legs, socks and hair are long, his shorts short, his backhand two-fisted, and his service wind-up so slow that it flirts with reverse gear.

Pate who reached the semi-finals last year, comes from Las Vegas and, predictably, is a discrete gambler who always respects the odds. There is nothing fancy about his game but he is brisk and neat and, as long as he is serving well, never relaxes the pressure. Pate won a 16-point tie-break when Pimek tried a volleyed drop and muffed it. Then Pate's service lost its rhythm. The second match produced the best, most exciting tennis

of the week. Noah and Kriek have much in common in that both are superb athletes who emerged from Africa to acquire bases in Europe and the United States in turn. Wembley is Kriek's first tournament since a badly inflamed shoulder forced him out of the game more than ten weeks ago. He has bounced back as if he had never been away.

Kriek consists largely of muscles and a moustache. It would be easy to imagine him as an Army man: a drill sergeant or a PTT. Noah is 9 inches taller and has the kind of physique that makes sculptors reach for their chisels. Currently, his hairstyle raises images of wigs and mops and his shirts are usually black or red. Noah looks like nobody except Noah. He is a gentle, thoughtful man and though his tennis is boldly powerful and often acrobatic, he prefers opponents who join him in creating patterned, interesting rallies, what he graphically describes as "a wide dialogue".

Noah confesses that for the first time he is "really enjoying

London", partly because he has found some French-style haunts. The pleasure shows in his tennis. Yesterday he fired 11 aces and served much and his entire game suffered from an erosion of confidence. Pimek played better and better. He had a run of 11 consecutive points and 18 out of 20.

better than the smaller Kriek. Noah's racket made wonderful twanging noises. Kriek rode the storm as best he could and waited for it to abate, but it never did. Kriek came back from 2-5 down in the first set and had two set points. But Noah had four; and the last was the last because Kriek served one of his seven double-faults.

Jonas Svensson's advance to the last eight at the expense of Miklos Meiri — whose magical Muz had taken Thursday off — was a reminder of Sweden's depth of talent. Svensson ranks 28th in the world but only 7th among Swedes. Anders Jarryd is suffering from wear and tear and Mats Wilander and Joakim Nystrom have been showing signs of battle fatigue. But that cannot be much comfort to Australia, who play Sweden in the Davis Cup final next month. When so many crack troops are available, the front line will always be hard to break through.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Sibson not yet ready

Tony Sibson, the Commonwealth middleweight champion, has a shoulder injury and has pulled out of Frank Warren's promotion at the Alexandra Pavilion on December 3. It was to be Sibson's comeback fight after losing his world title heavyweight title challenge against Dennis Andries in September. As soon as Sibson is fit, he will begin preparing for a Commonwealth defence against Errol Christie, of Coventry, in February or March, a fight which will double as a final eliminator for the British crown now held by Brian Anderson, of Sheffield.

Rally verdict

The tribunal of the International Automobile Federation (FIA) will meet on November 24 to rule on the controversial results of the last world rally championship event, the Italian San Remo rally.

Breland again

New York (AFP) — Mark Breland, the Los Angeles Olympics welterweight gold medal winner, and twice a world amateur champion, is now one fight away from a world title bid. The 23-year-old American made it 16 unbeaten outings as a professional when he stopped Orlando Orozco, of Venezuela, after only 1min 46sec into the second round.

Tokyo battle

Rosa Mota, of Portugal, the European champion and Los Angeles Olympics bronze medal winner, and East Germany's Katrin Dörre are expected to stage a thrilling battle in the Tokyo women's marathon here tomorrow.

Rackets win

Paul Nicholls and Norwood Cripps won the invitation doubles tournament at Queen's Club on Wednesday, beating John Prens and Thomas Brudenell 4-11, 15-5, 15-2, 15-5, 9-15, 15-11.

Charlton off

Bobby Charlton, former England and Manchester United forward, goes to China today to make the draw in Peking for the Coke Cup — the Chinese version of the FA Cup — and also to find the 20 most skilful young players in China. "There are millions to choose from and I'll be meeting the Chinese FA on Monday to discuss the logistics of doing it," he said. His trip has the backing of Coca-Cola.

Charlton: Peking challenge

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A Cash diet of another kind

By Paul Martin

Not so long ago Pat Cash was heading for obscurity. Even before the back injury that put him out of club tennis for not far short of a year the young man on whose broad shoulders the mantle of reigning Australian tennis had been laid was displaying all the signs that the burden of greatness would prove too much.

A typical example of his flawed, self-destructive attitude was his conduct at the Young Masters tournament in January 1984 at Birmingham. There he crashed out to a minor player, pronounced the tournament, which was won by Boris Becker, as "a exhibition," and spent most of the next day entertaining in his room and staggered down later to complain, with his unwavering honesty, that the pressures of stardom were getting him down.

"I'm just a regulation kid," he said, and if becoming No. 1 meant giving up the fun of life — late nights, female company and rowdy evenings with his mates — it was not worth it.

Today he recalls that conversation with a laugh: "I'm a different person now. And I tell you, I want to be No. 1 very badly."

The brash youngster has been transformed into an awesome player who may soon be challenging for world supremacy. The spinal injury that made him falter when looking impressive at the 1985 Wimbledon gave him pause for an agonizing reappraisal.

"He realized how much he was losing and he vowed he'd make things change if only he got another chance," Paul McNamee, the senior Australian Davis Cup player and a close friend, says.

Gone was the Cash diet of hamburgers and Coke, to be replaced, Ivan Lendl-style, by a regimen of pasta and chicken; he has imposed on himself the most rigorous programme known to sport, even foregoing squad training with his local Australian Rules footballers in favour of aerobics, running and weight training to build up his already powerful thighs and tone his stomach and chest muscles close to physical perfection.

At last the agony — and the poor early results this year, which nearly led him to throw in the racket altogether — have been replaced by tennis of a quality superior to his earlier prime.

"Because of his injuries and interruptions all through his career, he's had little experience of competitive tennis," his coach, Ian Barclay, said. "Just watch how dramatically he improves from now on." Barclay has nurtured him, as coach and second father, since the 11-year-old boy first approached him asking: "What does it take to be the best?" It seems Cash has learnt the secret.

In large measure the transformation has been made possible by his relationship with Anne Britt Kristiansen, who gave up her career as a top Norwegian model and has provided the 22-year-old Cash with a secure base for his emotions — and a five-month-old baby boy, Daniel.

His decision to live with her, but not get married, caused anguish in his Irish Catholic, close-knit family, but father Pat, a lawyer, is delighted with the outcome. Last year he complained how difficult it was to exert any paternal authority over his child prodigy; now he doesn't need to.

"In the old days after a match we'd hit the Hard Rock cafe or he'd be off to the Hammersmith Odeon and Pals for some music and dancing," Paul McNamee recalls. "Now, if I drop in to his Fulham flat and he isn't there, sure enough, like last night, I'll find him at the supermarket buying baby food and nappies with Anne Britt and Daniel."

The newly responsible Cash takes his fatherhood so seriously that he feels "guilty" when his prodigious training programme and tennis engagements keep him off night and nappy-changing duty even hours. Anne Britt plans to turn the heavy metal music down.

"It's really tough," Cash said. "Oddly, though, I find more time for my family when I'm travelling — like now in London than in Melbourne. I do two weeks' full training, come home exhausted and collapse into bed."

Family tribulations are not always a hindrance. The night before Cash beat McEnroe this week he went to bed at three after a long doubles game and was woken at six by Daniel, who grizzled and cried for the next three hours.

Now that Cash has tamed his excesses, there are few doubts that young Daniel will soon have cause for great satisfaction at his father's achievements.

Advertisement for Victorian Ordnance Survey Maps, including a map of a town and contact information for David & Charles.

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, with text including 'A cash diet of another kind' and 'Iran'.